

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 28, 2013

Read by more than 41,000 people

Price when sold 50p

mna media

Matchstick man

Strike a light modelmaker John shows his talent

Page 6



Knockout time

Boxing club puts on an event with a ring to it

Page 11



Make a splash

Teenage swimmer Chloe grabs five senior titles

Page 36



Family is jailed for neglect of horses

A FAMILY of three are now behind bars after their "long-term neglect" of four horses they kept at a Dudley nature reserve.

The court heard it was a miracle the animals, who were all emaciated, had survived. The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Pensnett, by husband and wife Walter and Amanda Hickman and their son Kevin.

RSPCA inspectors rescued the animals in December 2011, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

All three defendants, of Wallows Road, Pensnett, were jailed for a total of more than 50 offences of animal cruelty by District Judge Michael Wheeler.

They all admitted the charges but waited until the first day of a previous pre-arranged trial to do so.

In sentencing, Mr Wheeler said: "I'm told you love animals, especially horses, and that you have kept them for many years and know what you are doing. I find that impossible to believe."

RSPCA inspector Jackie Hickman welcomed the sentences. She said: "Whilst tethering in itself is not an illegal practice, the many welfare problems that accompany it."

● Expressed - Page 5

Tutors opt for tribunal

FOUR maths lecturers who were sacked from Halesowen College will take their case claiming unfair dismissal to a tribunal.

Lecturers David Muritu and Jason White together with two other tutors have lodged their case with the employment tribunal in Birmingham. It is expected to be heard this June, union officials say. A 12,500-strong petition has been collected by members of the University and College Union in protest over the sackings.

Principal Keith Bate was unavailable for comment.

PATIENTS 'MUST TAKE PRIORITY'

by Andrew Turton

A LEADING Halesowen councillor has said he would rather the opening hours at Russells Hall Hospital canteen be cut than see vital patient services suffer.

More than 600 people have signed a petition against the cuts to the canteen services at the Dudley hospital which is claimed will save £110,000 a year. Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, is battling government cuts and needs to save £15m by 2015. But the reduction in opening hours has drawn criticism from union officials who have started the petition. The proposals have also put jobs at risk. There are 64 workers involved and a consultation is under way. Under the plans, the canteen would close at weekends and be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday. It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day.

£3.5m to be raised in sale of town sites

AROUND £3.5 million will be raised by the sale of 12 council buildings, many of which are late Victorian and early Edwardian, in Dudley town centre.

The buildings have been earmarked to make 90 new homes. Bosses said the sale of the buildings will also net Dudley Council around £467,000 per year in savings. The offices will be transformed into new homes, in a move which council leader, Councillor David Sparks, said would boost regeneration plans.

The properties, originally constructed as houses for professionals and business people, are now used as offices and will be converted into homes. They are all in the Dudley town centre conservation area and will be part of the town's residential quarter.

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said the plans were part of a wider scheme to revamp the town centre.

"A key element of the continued regeneration of Dudley town centre is to get more people living in the town," he said.

"The more efficient use of council office accommodation will result in savings for the taxpayer and enable these new homes to be created in the town.

"This will all support our continued efforts to bring more people into the town centre."

weekends and be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday. It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day.

Halesowen councillor David Vickers, who sits on Dudley Council's health and adult social care scrutiny committee, said he could see both sides of the argument.

"There are a lot of people who go to the hospital, maybe to visit family, which use the canteen so it is a shame if the hours are reduced," he said.

"I would far rather the canteen cut its hours than cuts in the budget for patient care because that's effectively what they are saying in this."

Tracy Wood, regional organiser for Unison, said union officials had visited Russells Hall to gauge reaction in relation to the canteen closure and potential job losses.

Valuable

"Not one person we spoke to agreed that the changes should take place and thought the canteen was a valuable service which needed to be retained," she added.

"Long-serving canteen staff will lose their jobs because the Government has chosen to cut the NHS budget. These staff are Band 1 and 2 workers - the lowest salary you can receive in the NHS - yet they have to pay."

"Doctors and nurses covering 24-hour services will now only be able to access hospital canteen services for six hours out of a 12-hour shift, which is wholly inadequate." She said that 600 people had signed the petition so far.

One visitor to the hospital said: "The canteen is valuable. When my husband was in hospital, I used it every evening to have a hot meal."

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, has defended the move, saying: "This decision follows a comprehensive review of footfall through the restaurant, which concluded there was very little footfall after the lunchtime service."

Alexia is perfect for pageant



Beauty pageant winner Alexia Bates, aged 11, of Dudley, is all smiles

A SCHOOLGIRL is flying the flag for the Black Country after winning a beauty contest and booking her place at a glamorous US pageant.

Alexia Bates, aged 11, of Dudley, won the pre-teen section of the Europe's Perfect

pageant held in Wales. She will now attend the World's Perfect pageant in Orlando, Florida, in August. Her mother, April, is appealing for sponsors for Alexia, who attends St Paul's School for Girls in Edgbaston. Contact Ms Bates on 07882 766770.

Mother locked up teenage daughter

A HALESOWEN mother who disapproved of her daughter's boyfriend, ambushed her, bundled her into a car and locked her in a bedroom to keep her away from him, a court heard.

Latvian-born Rozhe Vysotskene conspired to keep her daughter, aged 17, away from her boyfriend, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Vysotskene, of Wychbury Court, organised the snatch after her daughter moved out to be with her boyfriend.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "She formed a relationship with a man of African descent. The family did not approve of his ethnicity."

Judge Amjad Nawaz sentenced Vysotskene, who had served six months waiting for sentence, to a total of 16 months' custody.

He said he would suspend the remainder for two years, but she would be subject to supervision. The court heard the mother-of-10, aged 50, arranged for her son Alexis to help her ambush the daughter.

The girl was locked in her bedroom but jumped out of a window and suffered fractures to her ankle, heel and lumbar vertebrae. Mr Charnjit Jutla, defending, stressed his client, a widow who spoke through an interpreter, was a proud mother. He said: "It is plain she is proud of her children and deeply remorseful."

Albion delays growth plan

PLANS by West Bromwich Albion to expand The Hawthorns into a 30,000-seater stadium, look likely to be delayed.

Demand for tickets has not increased enough for the expansion, club bosses said.

It came as the Baggies declared a £1.5 million profit in the latest accounts.

Chief executive Mark Jenkins told shareholders that a large-scale expansion would not happen until bosses were convinced that demand for tickets had increased sufficiently.

● Full story - Back Page

EXPRESS TAXIS

OF HALESOWEN



YOUR LOCAL
NO.1
TAXI FIRM



24hr
SERVICE

WISHING ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS A HAPPY EASTER

Voted the Taxi base
of the year 2013

Call now for a quote on 0121 501 2345



NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	15
Puzzle Page	25
TV Listings	22-24
Property	26-27
Motoring	28-29
Classified	30-34
Sport	35-36

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Sharon Marris: 01384 353209
sharon.marris@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. Email your information and pictures to dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrooks
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

HALESOWEN
thechronicle

Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm
and 2pm-5pm

www.yourchronicle.com



From left, Sue Parker, Beverley Woodward, Debbie and Amy Tonks, 11



The Mid Counties Entertainment Council Spotlight Awards

Top talent turns out to their big awards bash



Front, Could it be Magic/That's Life, Sam Gorman, left, aged 20, of Bilbrook, Lee Aldridge, 27, of Aldridge, Phil Richards, 32, of Coseley, Brett Foster, 31, of Tipton, Jay Catalano, 35, of Stourbridge, with back, Man Maid - Sam Tanner, 53, left, and Becky Tanner, 37, Stuart James, 36, of Oldbury, Janine Jeffery, 34, and Ashley Jeffery, 38, of Pelsall

TOP singing talent took their moment in the spotlight to celebrate being named among the region's best turns.

Five acts, including a boyband tribute group and husband and wife duo, claimed gongs at the Mid Counties Entertainment Council's Spotlight Awards.

They played to a sell-out 220-strong crowd at Quarry Bank Labour Club. And everything was alright on the night for the glitzy bash despite last-minute rehearsals, late dashes to make the show on time and final costume drama.

Tracks from Elvis, The Killers, Billy Ocean and Take That were among a plethora of hits from the acts as they all took turns on stage before accepting their awards.

Solo singers Stuart James and Kia were joined

by duos ManMaid and Ashley and Janine together with boyband tribute act Could It Be Magic/That's Life to receive gongs.

Council secretary and night organiser Malcolm Edwards, aged 66, heralded the night as a shot in the arm for clubland.

Builder

"We have some of the best singers here in the country and this awards show is also here as a representation of all the great artists in this area," said Mr Edwards, a former Round Oak Steelworks worker and builder who lives in Tipton.

First on the bill was professional singer Stuart James, of Bowling Green Drive, Oldbury, who won the top male vocalist honour.

The 36-year-old has performed in Spain, America and Dubai. The father-of-two opened

his set with Take That's Rule The World. Husband and wife duo Ashley and Janine Jeffery, aged 38 and 34 respectively, perform on the road - juggling family and work life with their three children. The couple, from Pelsall, Walsall, have been married 11 years. They won honours for the top duo alongside another act ManMaid aka Sam and Becky Tanner, aged 53 and 37, respectively from Warwickshire.

Solo singer Kia, of Wednesfield, Wolverhampton arrived just minutes before the show had been due to start after getting stuck in traffic. But after a quick change she was ready to hit the stage to perform and collect her award as best female vocalist.

Friends Brett Foster, 31, Lee Aldridge, 27, Sam Gorman, 20, Jay Catalano, 35 and 32-year-old Phil Richards treated the audience to a packed set full of Take That hits.



Stuart James, 36, of Oldbury

Sentence on mother for threat with knife

A WOMAN who grabbed a neighbour by the hair and punched her in the nose before threatening another with a knife has been given a 12-month jail term suspended for 18 months.

Nicole Hewitt told the second neighbour: "You're next."

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Hewitt, aged 29, of Muroft Road, Stourbridge, had used the knife to try to scratch the couple's car before pointing it at the man's chin.

In the attack on the first neighbour she had demanded £15 from the woman to cover the cost of damage to her son's bike tyres, which she believed the woman had been involved in, before striking the woman in the face.

Hewitt then walked away only to return and punch the woman, said Mr Richard Frank prosecuting. Judge Michael Challinor told Hewitt, who admitted affray and common assault, that she had behaved violently and badly.

"People do not feel safe when they have neighbours like you." He also made a restraining order forbidding her from having any contact with the two other families.

Police give carers cash

POLICE officers have donated £1,000 to help carers at a Dudley respite centre.

Crossroads Care provides free trained carers to support respite for anyone across the borough with a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Around 140 families are helped by the centre, which has its headquarters on the Pensnett Trading Estate, every week with care in their own homes.

Peso Julie Pressdee from the Kingswinford neighbourhood policing team, visited Crossroads to hand over the cheque. The cash will fund social events.

Mortgages up

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society is bucking a national trend of a slump in mortgage applications. During January and February this year the society processed mortgage applications worth more than £6.6 million, an increase of more than 45 per cent on 2012.

ABLE BROMLEY CARPETS/BEDS
FURNITURE/RUGS/VINYLS & LAMINATES
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE



DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT? OR ANYONE WHO JUST NEEDS EXTRA HELP!

Can't come to us, we'll come to you - We will bring 100s of carpet samples and bed brochures to your door. WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T Remove and take away old carpets/beds. Move heavy furniture and shave doors PLUS FREE FITTING ON ALL CARPETS when purchasing our underlay. Terms and conditions apply. Family run Est since 1979.

Click on-line for many great prices www.ablecarpets.co.uk

80/20 Wool Twists
from
£8.99 sq yd

Quality Wiltons
only
£14.99 sq yd

Divan Beds
Single from £96
Double from £160

Quality Double Memory Foam bed
RRP Was £899
Now **£397**

Warehouse Unit D1 Dormston Trading Est. Burton Road, Gornal DY1 2UF

Open: Mon-Sat 9.30-5.00 Call anytime between

Freephone
0800 0853747
Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge,
Kingswinford, Pedmore, Kinver, Wordsley, Pensnett, Gornal, Hagley
Adrian Bromley
01902 880541

Up to **75% OFF**
We will beat your BIG Superstores

HOMECLAD



- FASCIAS
- GUTTERING
- SOFFITS
- CLADDING
- TILE EDGING

BEST VALUE IN THE MIDLANDS

PREMIUM PRODUCTS EXPERTLY FITTED BY A LOCAL FAMILY COMPANY

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE guttering and downpipes

0800 73 13 946
CALL FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

16 MONUMENT AVENUE STOURBRIDGE DY9 8XS

Broken Dentures?

1 hour denture repair service

New Dentures
available & made at...

The Dental Shop
Est. 1961

01384 413444

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, W. Mids. B64 6HE
www.the-dental-shop.co.uk

FOOTWORKS
Chiropody Clinic

- Full range of services with disabled friendly access
- Nail Cutting and Trimming
- Diabetic Footcare
- Corns and Calluses

01384 413444

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill B64 6HE
www.footworkschiropodists.co.uk

Robbery attempt pair jailed

TWO men who walked into a flat and threatened a man with a knife in an attempted robbery have been jailed.

Clayton Hyde and Paul Northall entered the flat in Colley Gate, Cradley, with a rottweiler looking for a man they claimed owed them money.

But after it became apparent the man was not there, an argument broke out between the pair and the homeowner Anthony Naynanu. The pair dragged the victim down some stairs before pinning him to the floor and holding knives to his throat and legs.

After struggling free, Mr Naynanu told the men to take what they wanted.

They were driven to a cash machine by his partner Dawn Lambett - but there was no money in the account. Hyde, aged 35, of Smith Street, and Northall, 32, of Osprey Drive, both Dudley, admitted attempted robbery last year. On Monday, they were each jailed for seven years at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Mr Bernard Porter, defending Northall, said the situation had "escalated" after the argument. Mr Sukhdeep Garcha, defending Hyde, said: "Things got out of hand."

Staff terror in shop raid

MASKED robbers threatened terrified staff at a Halesowen supermarket before stealing cash and cigarettes.

The thieves targeted the Tesco Express store, in Stourbridge Road, just before 11pm on March 18.

Staff were forced into a security office and threatened by the three men, who wore scarves over their faces. The robbers stole cash and cigarettes before fleeing in a silver Audi estate car.

Two of the robbers were white and the other was black, said police.

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

£300,000 depot will serve SVR

A £300,000 depot to maintain a fleet of diesel engines is to be built at Severn Valley Railway to replace outdated facilities at the famous heritage line.

Work on the building, in Kidderminster, which will be fully equipped with lifting jacks and inspection pits, is due to start in autumn.

Search for rioters will continue vow police

DETECTIVES have vowed to keep tracking down the rioters who caused chaos on the streets of the West Midlands in 2011 but have yet to be caught.

More than 800 people have been arrested since rioters ran amok in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Birmingham, smashing up shops and attacking police officers.

Detectives continue to work on Operation View, the inquiry team which is tracking down the offenders.

A senior officer has said detectives will persist in the hunt for those who had not yet been caught and warned the thugs that took part they should not sleep easy.

Raju Miah, aged 20, is the latest to be apprehended by officers.

The 22-year-old is now paying the price for his role in the disturbances after a judge at Birmingham Crown Court sentenced him to 22 months behind bars.

The court was told he shattered seven windows in a failed attempt to smash his way into jeweller Watches of Switzerland, in New Street, Birmingham, on the evening of August 9, 2011.

The mechanic, from Weatheroak Road in Sparkhill, broke into a newsagent in Newhall Street earlier that night as part of a group of thugs that hurled a manhole

cover through a window before stripping the convenience store bare.

Miah admitted burglary and attempted burglary and was sentenced to 12 and 10 months, respectively, in prison for the offences.

West Midlands Police Sergeant Julie Woods, who leads Operation View, said: "As this case proves we are still actively searching for people suspected of being involved in the riots and associated looting."

"No-one wanted in connection with the disorder can rest easy because detectives could come knocking at any time."

"The public have played a key role in helping us identify suspects from the mass

of CCTV footage recovered at the time and again I'd ask people to check out images on our website to see if they recognise any of the faces featured."

"If they do believe they recognise someone I'd urge them to contact us straight away on the 101 police number."

During the widespread disorder in Wolverhampton, thugs tore through Queen Street and smashed shop windows, including that of EV Becketts and Zhapp clothing.

Thousands of pounds' worth of damage was caused as well as stock stolen. Mobs also gathered throughout Queen Square and in Dudley Street.

Market traders happy over move to freeze stall rents

TRADERS have welcomed plans to freeze rents for market stalls in Dudley for the second year in a row as a boost for their businesses.

Council bosses have announced that fees for Dudley Market will be kept at this year's prices. It is hoped the move will encourage more traders to take up pitches. Regeneration councillor Shaikat Ali said the authority had decided to freeze the rates to help traders who were struggling during the tough economic climate.

Dudley Market Traders Association Chairman Len Lenihan said: "We are pleased that they have made this decision - it is applauded by the traders."

"With the present state of the economy, I think that this price freeze is justified, especially considering the footfall in the town."

Encourage

Councillor Ali said: "We want to support traders as much as we can and also encourage new traders to consider using the market as a place to set up a new business."

"We are also committed to helping traders by exploiting the market's full potential."

"Our market transformation plans will breathe new life into the town and encourage more people from the borough and beyond to visit Dudley

by Andrew Turton

helping to increase footfall." Rates per day range from £9.18 to £32.66. There are 10 different levels of rent, and more is charged for weekends than weekdays. Traders also have to pay a surcharge of between £2 and £3.50 each day, and £5 at Christmas.

The rent freeze comes as council officials draw up plans for £6 million revamp of the market.

Among the ideas are new stalls with canopies and remove the ageing toilet block to create a view of the town's castle.

Dudley Council is also working on proposals to run specialist Sunday and evening markets.

The borough's regeneration chief, Councillor Shaikat Ali, said: "By keeping rents down we're supporting both existing and potential new traders."

The market is open Monday to Saturday.

Country festival in town

A POPULAR country and western festival will once again be staged in a Wyre Forest town with hundreds of fans expected at the annual event.

The festival is scheduled to take place on August 17 and 18 this year at its regular location along the riverside in Stourport-on-Severn.

Musicians who have confirmed for the event include Johnny Holland, Alan Gregory and Tony Rouse. Call 01562 732994 for more information.



From left, Pat Cousins and Pat Coburn are pictured with some of their work

Artist is running classes with clay

COLOURFUL vases and jewellery will be among the clay artworks made on a new art course in Dudley.

French artist Pascale Bigot is behind the sessions which are run at the Talbot Hotel in Stourbridge High Street, and will start on April 16.

She will explore a variety of techniques using polymer clay as a material during the 10-week course.

Mrs Bigot, aged 50, is known in the town for her regular exhibitions of her pastel artwork often displayed at her home in Worcester Street.

She runs courses at venues across the borough for Dudley Council including Pensnett Community Centre. "The people who come sometimes have never done any art at all and they get the chance to discover a new skill," Mrs Bigot said.

There is a charge of around £60 for the complete 10-week course and people are asked to book in advance.

The course will run from April 16 on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm.

For more details email Mrs Bigot on pascalebigot11@gmail.com or call 01384 444939.

NEWS in brief

School praised for its eco work

A PRIMARY school in Halesowen has been praised for its environmental work.

Lutley Primary School, in Brookwillow Road, is among three schools to be shortlisted for the Royal Forestry Excellence in Forestry Schools award.

The award recognises education related to forestry issues at the schools, increasing understanding of trees, woodlands and their potential.

Lutley was selected for its forest school programme.

£150,000 reptile revamp to open

A £150,000 project to improve a long-standing reptile house at Dudley Zoo has been completed and will be officially opened this weekend.

Enclosures have been remodelled as part of the work along with installation of timber flooring and cladding to walls around public-viewing corridors. A new glazed entrance has also been built.

Visitors will get their first look at the revamped house on Saturday.

It will be opened by ecologist and TV presenter Mike Dilger at 2pm.

Museum reopens with new display

BEWDLEY Museum will reopen its doors to visitors this week with a new exhibition and events planned for the spring and summer.

The attraction in Load Street will open on March 29 with thousands of visitors expected over the course of the year.

Starting off the new programme of events will be an exhibition called East meets West featuring Chinese and Japanese artefacts.

Golf club invites players to event

KEEN golfers are invited to an Easter event near Kidderminster next month.

Clebury Mortimer Golf Club is inviting ladies, gents and senior citizens to play in teams of four on April 11. See www.cleburygolfclub.co.uk for details.

Victim of crash

A MAN killed in a smash between two cars near Swindon, has been named by police as Norman Higgins. Mr Higgins died following the smash in Hinksford Lane, between Wombourne and Kingswinford.

Highlights & Perms from £20

includes Cut & Blow Wave

Senior Citizens Day - EVERY DAY!

Spray Tans from just £10

Local Mobile Hairdresser

Call Today -

07858 012271

Tanning Available In Your Own Home!

PROFESSIONAL CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING



Meet Adrian, the manager of Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning. He has over 20 years experience of cleaning, repairs and fitting carpets. He also cleans upholstery as well as leather, home and office. No job too big or small. Technician Woolsafe Accredited



Telephone anytime for a free quotation
Covering all
Stourbridge, Dudley &
Halesowen areas

TEL: 01384 444022
or 0121 585 6591

M & H FIREPLACES

RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2002-2003



OPEN 5 DAYS. CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

Visit our showroom at:
Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, B64 5AL
(Opposite Cradley Bus and Train Station)
Telephone: 01384 345400

NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE real House of Commons is not the fiery place you saw for the opening of the Budget debate with the big beasts of Government and Opposition hurling razor-barbed soundbites at each other as a packed chamber roared its approval or outrage.

The real Commons, as it exists for 90 per cent of its time, is the near-empty, echoing place we saw six hours later. In this forlorn lost world the last speaker of the day, plucky Emma Reynolds (Lab, Wolverhampton NE) was banging on about inner-city mortality rates and unequal societies. A dozen or so MPs didn't even pretend to listen and a couple of rude old duffers talked loudly throughout her impassioned speech. It's not all glamour, being an MP.

□□□□□□□□

THE new Pope urges us all to pray for him. The Archbishop of Canterbury is off on a pilgrimage of prayer and he, too, wants us to join in his prayers. You see the difficulty? If prayer worked, we wouldn't need to be encouraged to do it. But it doesn't work, so we don't.

□□□□□□□□

A READER tells me his wife died last July and when his policy came up for renewal a few days ago, he was horrified to see the premium had increased by 50 per cent, because he is now the sole driver.

He took it up with the call centre where a lady sympathised but refused to budge, explaining that this huge rise was "the industry standard." Funny, isn't it, how all those happy, snappy, chummy TV adverts for car insurance never mention this sort of thing?

□□□□□□□□

THE BBC Magazine raises the issue of bereavement leave, statutory time off work when a loved one dies. So far the Government has declined to intervene, on the grounds that the right to "reasonable time" off is already included in the 1996 Employment Rights Act, and that some people take longer to grieve than others.

And that's the problem. Once they started granting automatic leave, we could discover a new version of Parkinson's Law: grief expands to fit the time off available. Let me know your thoughts.

□□□□□□□□

GREAT Theological Questions of Our Time. A reader recalls that Pope Benedict always wore red shoes. He asks: "Is it because he used Cardinal polish?"

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Family in horse neglect 'expressed no remorse'

A FAMILY of three who kept four horses in an "appalling state" at a Dudley nature reserve showed no remorse, a court heard.

The animals had been left emaciated at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett. The mother, father and son were all jailed at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

They were also handed lifetime bans on owning, keeping or being involved with horses. Walter Hickman, aged 52, of Wallows Road, Pensnett, was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison for a total of 20 charges in relation to the horses, while his wife Amanda Hickman, 49, was jailed for 16 weeks for 16 charges. Their son Kevin Hickman, 23, of the same address, was locked up for 18 weeks for 18 offences.

All three pleaded guilty to their charges, but waited until the first day of a previously-arranged three-day trial to do so.

In sentencing them, District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "These horses were in an appalling state, with pest infestations and sores, they hadn't been hooved properly, they were emaciated and near death. Some had been tethered, some with access to grass and water that was inadequate, and they had been checked infrequently.

Shocked

"I'm told you've been shocked by this prosecution and you are angered and upset by the loss of your horses. What I hear from this is you only think of yourselves.

"Even when these horses were seen and seized by the authorities, you showed no willingness to sign them over. None of you has shown a shred of remorse or responsibility. Your level of denial borders on arrogance.

"This was a case of long-term neglect, and it's a miracle these animals have survived."

The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve between November 2 and December 22, in 2011. During the hearing the court was told



Amanda Hickman, who is 49



Kevin Hickman, aged 23

how the family had previously been warned by the authorities when a foal died, after being shut in a trailer on their property and becoming too weak to reach its mother to feed.

Prosecuting solicitor Mr Nick Sutton said this warning seemed to have no effect. He added: "An awful lot of agencies have been involved in this matter in distressing work, because of what these people did and did not do."

The case ran up a total of £22,849, including stabling, care, investigations, vet and legal fees, including £4,240 for one agency, World Horse Welfare, to care for just one of the animals.

Despite this, Mr Wheeler did not impose an order for any costs. The family's defending solicitor Stephanie Brownlees said the defendants were "shell-shocked" by their prosecution, as it has been a habit locally for horses to be tethered and this was seen as "perfectly acceptable".

She said: "It's clear that although levels of care fell way short of the levels required, they still did

love these animals and are suffering from having to hand them over. Deep down they realise they've fallen short of their duty of care, and it was never a deliberate attempt to be cruel or to neglect in any way. It requires a great deal of money, land and effort from owners to keep a horse, and in this case the defendants appear to have bitten off more than they could chew and were ignorant to the levels of care."

After the case, RSPCA equine inspector Jackie Hickman said she hopes these prosecutions act as a warning to others.

One of the horses, a skewbald cob pony called Skippy, has now been nursed back to health. The pony had lost a lot of weight, her hooves were severely overgrown and she was weak and lethargic. But despite her ordeal she managed to pull through and only a week after her rescue had the strength to stand for a farrier.

It took nearly a year for her to physically and mentally heal, said Inspector Hickman.

Cannabis farm was to 'feed my habit'

A £30-A-DAY drug habit has saved a man from jail after a cannabis farm was found at his home.

The drugs were uncovered by chance when police were called to the address in Rowley Regis following a row between Joginder Niner and his girlfriend on Boxing Day, a court heard last week.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Court Court officers found 28 plants being cultivated.

The prosecution did not accept Niner was growing all the drugs for his own use.

But the 25-year-old, who was renting the property in Old Bridge Walk, said: "I have been smoking cannabis since I was 14 and could not afford to keep buying it, so I decided to grow some."

Police found none of the paraphernalia normally associated with dealing. Judge John Warner said: "...there was no evidence of drug dealing." Niner, from Hagley Road West, Oldbury, admitted producing cannabis and was given a four-month sentence suspended for two years with £200 costs.

Vegetable class

A FREE class showing how to get the best from vegetables and flowers is being held in Wolverhampton.

Allseasons, at Sandy Lane Allotments, Bushbury, is putting on the class on April 20 from 11am to 1pm. Call

Looking to Reduce your Heating Costs and Increase The Value of your Home?

We have been designing, manufacturing, installing and maintaining windows, doors and conservatories for over **20 years**
Deal direct with the owner

We will beat any genuine written quote

SPECIAL OFFER

6 Windows and One Composite Door for **£2,699** throughout March
(terms and conditions apply)

Composite Doors from **£650**

Energy Rated Windows (incl Fitting) from **£220**

Back Doors (incl Fitting) from **£400**

French Doors (incl Fitting) from **£850**

Yale Shoot Bolt Locks on all windows

7 point Multi-purpose Door Locks on all doors

10 YEARS INSURANCE GUARANTEE

NO PRESSURE, NO HASSLE - JUST GREAT QUALITY & PRICES

Call Today for a No Obligation Quote: 0121 679 8573 / 07886 228810



Mucklow Holdings
Narrow Lane
Hurst Green
HALESOWEN
B62 9PA
lewindowsltd@live.com



QUALITY & COMFORT

Tailor made for you

Up to 50% off showroom stock

Handmade suites to suit all Budgets

- Wide Selection of Fabrics
- Tailor Made Suites and Chairs
- Home Demonstrations Available
- Mobility Furniture
- 10 Year Guarantee on Frames
- We do full re-covers

Broadcote Ind Est., Unit 4, Station Road, Old Hill B64 6NT

"WE CAN COME TO YOU FOR MOBILITY FURNITURE"

0121 559 3057

Safety and Style with blinds 4 all

Buy direct at factory prices

FREE CALL OUT MEASURING QUOTATION FITTING

Specialists in Vertical, Venetian & Roller Blinds

Vertical Blinds

3 from £99* 5 from £149*
Conservatory Special Safety Cords with Blinds*

0121 772 0696
08000 141 796
info@blinds4alluk.com
www.blinds4alluk.com

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

Make Your Will

Only **£70.00** plus VAT

Per person for couples, Mirror Wills.

Single Wills **£75.00** plus VAT

A home visit at a convenient time

For information and appointment call

0845 678 7010

Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Will Storage, Estate Planning and Guardianship Trusts

Members of the Society of Will Writers

Goodwills Ltd

www.goodwillsmidlands.co.uk

Rules for safety on the cards

SCHOOLCHILDREN have designed a new card game aimed at driving home a safety message to young people across Dudley.

Messages on bullying, internet safety, robbery, carrying weapons and safer travel are all part of the innovative scheme.

Battle Cards, created at Holly Hall Academy, Dudley, to encourage a more street-wise attitude, were launched with the help of head boy Charly Bagley and head girl Gagandeep Sandhar.

Pupils worked with Dudley's community safety partnership Safe & Sound, school governors, Police Community Support Officers and church leaders to create the interactive game.

By playing young people will be encouraged to think about the choices they make and the potential negative consequences of not thinking first.

There will also be additional information giving details of advice and support services in the borough.

The game's launch follows the success of a board game last year to teach young people to think about their personal safety.

Sports donation

SCHOOLS and charitable organisations are being offered free Olympics and Sport Relief memorabilia. Sainsbury's on St George's Parade, Wolverhampton is giving away its old stock from last year's events including socks and flags.

Lost school days in borough above national level, claim

THOUSANDS of children missed school for more than a month in a year across the region with absence rates much higher than the national average in some areas.

Dudley, Wolverhampton and Sandwell were all above the national average, but Walsall fared significantly better and the figure in Staffordshire fell. Overall absence over 2011/2012 across the UK averaged 5.2 per cent, says the Department for Education (DfE). Wolverhampton had the highest rate of pupils persistently absent in the West Midlands with almost 2,000 absent within a year, a figure of 6.4 per cent, with Dudley on 6.2 per cent and Sandwell on six per cent. Staffordshire fell to 4.6 per cent and Walsall 4.8 per cent.

Man locked up for attack

A "HARD working family man" who attacked a pub bouncer with a knuckleduster has been locked up for six months.

Thomas Bate and two other men were asked to leave The Clifton, Bull Ring, Sedgley. The three, all wearing grey, hooded tops, were abusive and aggressive, Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

"The defendant punched him in the face while wearing a knuckleduster," he added.

It damaged his teeth but he escaped serious injury. Mr Rees said police got a call saying three drunken men attacked a member of the door staff. "He said he asked them to leave and was then punched to the left side of the face with a knuckleduster."

Mr Roy Paterson, defending, said the 22-year-old father-of-one was a hard-working, family man who was remorseful over what had happened and wished he could turn the clock back. Bate of Valley Road, Upper Gornal, admitted assault and possession of an offensive weapon on October 13.

Judge Michael Challinor said: "It was more by luck than judgement that the doorman was not very seriously hurt."

New figures released by the DfE showed 1,980 of the 30,955 pupils enrolled for schools in the Wolverhampton were not in class for more than a month. Overall absences were 5.6 per cent (the average across England is 5.1) with 1.2 per cent unauthorised by schools in Wolverhampton.

The Government said it defined a child as 'persistently absent' if they missed more than one month of school.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "I don't think pupil absence is a major problem for us in Dudley."

"It is the school's responsibility, and we work with them when needed if they are having any problems with a particular pupil's absence rate. We provide support and advice."

Schools in Sandwell fared no better with 2,590 of the 42,860 pupils in Sandwell persistent no shows equating to six per cent. The overall absence rate was 5.5 per cent.

Queen Mary's High School, Walsall and Thomas Telford, Telford had the joint best absentee record in the country with a rate of 0.1 per cent.

Pupils in Walsall fared well overall with figures showing 4.8 per cent students were continuously absent - 0.4 per cent below the national average.

The number of persistently absent children in schools across Staffordshire fell to 4.6 per cent in 2011/12.

Church marking 200 years



The Rev Simon Falshaw at Christ Church, High St, Lye, with a cross he is inviting people to decorate as part of a street event to mark the 200th anniversary of the church

A CHURCH in Lye is celebrating its 200-year anniversary with a street art project.

The project run by Christ Church, on Lye High Street, called 200 Years Together, will include a large canvas depicting the town.

People will be asked to take along photographs to be a part of it. The Rev Simon Falshaw said: "We will be out under a gazebo allowing the public to creatively express themselves."

"We will have a large display of Lye on canvas and want to see how we can fit ourselves all in the picture."

"We'll be celebrating the community we've been able to be a part of for the last two centuries. You can literally paint yourself into the picture."

Up until this Thursday, people from the community can take part in the activities and leave their mark on the canvas.

People will also be able to decorate a cross to mark the milestone.

Weather permitting, the gazebo will be open from 10.30am until 3pm.

NEWS in brief

Zoo gives a push to breeding birds

BIRDKEEPERS at Dudley Zoo are busy preparing for the upcoming bird breeding season.

Many of the collection typically breed around March and April, and keepers are giving them a little encouragement by adding extra foliage, plants and nesting boxes to many of the enclosures.

Section leader, Kellie Piper, said: "Breeding preparation varies with species - we are making up wooden nesting boxes for the scarlet macaws and Amazon parrots, whereas others prefer platforms."

Armed robbers flee empty-handed

TWO thieves threatened cash delivery officers with hammers in a bungled robbery attempt at a busy petrol station in Dudley.

The masked men ambushed the officers as they stopped to drop off money at the cash machine at BP Snax 24, in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill. The men ordered the officers to open their van - but they refused and within minutes the men fled empty handed in a blue Audi car.

Protest planned

A DISABILITY group is to protest against the "bedroom tax" with more than 200 people expected at a Disability Action Wyre Forest demonstration outside the town hall, Vicar Street, Kidderminster, on Saturday from 12.30pm.

RYDALE

CELEBRATING OVER 28 YEARS

WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES, PORCHES ORANGERIES, FASCIAS & SOFFIT BOARDS

• SUPPLIED & FITTED TO ALL AREAS •

• ACROSS THE MIDLANDS •

Quality Assured



RYDALE SERVICES
WINDOW & DOOR REPAIRS

CONSERVATORY REPAIR SPECIALISTS

• LOCKS • SEALANT
• SEALED • HANDLES
UNITS • FASCIA &
• GASKETS • GUTTERING

Telephone: 0121 559 4211
Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen
www.rydalewindows.co.uk

SUPPLY ONLY WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS

MASSIVE DISCOUNT ON ALL ORDERS PLACED NOW FOR APRIL INSTALLATION

You are invited to visit one of the largest Conservatory and Window Showrooms in the UK

FINANCE AVAILABLE

Window, Conservatory, Porch, Fascia & Soffit News

How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?

It's simple, customers' satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale's product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. No wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.

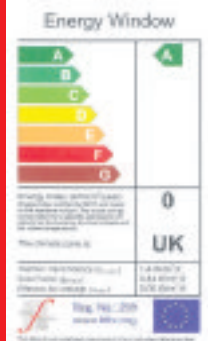
No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, that's why we have been in business for more than 28 years. Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. We have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built 40,000 sq. ft showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase. We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer.

At Rydale we do not take any deposits or stage payments. You only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 28 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it. Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

AT RYDALE WE CARE ABOUT THE CUSTOMER, SPEND YOUR MONEY WISELY.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU THE CUSTOMER



SPRING SALE NOW ON

Visit our Showroom & Factories for immediate quotations



Open 9am-5pm Good Friday, 9am-4pm Easter Saturday, Closed Sunday, 10am-4pm Bank Holiday Monday, 9am-5.30pm Tuesday 2nd April

FREEPHONE : 0800 917 6060

Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen, B62 9LS **www.rydalewindows.co.uk**



NEWS

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

GREAT to see that modern-day political philosopher Katie Price striking a blow for Middle England.

Springing to the defence of the housing association which advised its tenants to cut back on non-essential spending, the artist formerly known as Jordan used her newspaper column to launch a broadside against some of the people who fail to live up to her admittedly high standards.

"I've noticed a lot of people who haven't got jobs but they seem to find money to buy fags, drink alcohol and smoke spliffs," she declared, in almost Churchillian tones.

"They've also got more gadgets than a PC World warehouse. Why? Because you and me – the hardworking men and women of Britain – do not spend our days going on the Jeremy Kyle show."

"We get up early and come home late, slogging our guts out to pay for THEIR luxuries."

Hear, hear, Katie, you've hit the nail on the head. Now remind me. What was it you used to do for a living?

□□□□□□
VAN driver: "Is there a B&Q in Wednesbury?"

Black Country mon: "Dunno, but there's two. 'T's in Tipton".

□□□□□□
LET'S get this right. The reason Sebastian Vettel had a face like a wet weekend as he stood on the podium after the Malaysian Grand Prix was because he won.

Offering the sort of expression of regret which even Nick Clegg would think twice about, the German Formula One star said after the race: "I messed up today. I apologise for that. I am the black sheep."

Apparently, he was not supposed to win, but should have left first place to his team-mate Mark Webber, due to some complicated rule that would have meant the team would have got more points if Webber had won.

Now imagine if those principles were translated into another sport. Could you imagine Mo Farrah taking a breather in the middle of the 10,000 metres, because it was Christopher Thompson's turn for a medal?

Or a footballer booting a penalty into the crowd because both sides had agreed to stage the 0-0 draw that would guarantee them safety from relegation?

There is no doubt that given the rules of F1, the gentlemanly thing would have been for Vettel to have held his place and let his team-mate take the glory.

But to those of us who find the idea of watching a lot of funny-looking cars running round a track about as much fun as a police motorway video, the events of the weekend have done nothing to dissuade us from our view. That motor racing is a very strange sport indeed.

□□□□□□
EAMONN Holmes on Sky News last week: "Today we have a yellow snow alert."

No, he didn't mean that.



John Hurley with his digger, which has an engine and moving shovel arms



This perfect miniature gipsy caravan is among John's creations

John is matchless in the world of models

LEE WATTON watched artist John Hurley work on one of his astonishing models built only from matchsticks

ARTIST John Hurley has just put the finishing touches to his latest unique work.

Mr Hurley creates miniature models not from clay or stone, but from humble matchsticks – tens of thousands of them.

And his latest creation is a model of a mechanical digger, made from no fewer than 250,000 matches.

Mr Hurley, aged 70, who is from Dudley, has been working on the piece, which comes complete with moving shovel arms and doors, for just over a year.

The talented former lorry driver and machine operator has even created a removable engine for the digger, again with fully working parts, housed in a compartment at the front of the model.

And adding to the accuracy of the piece the wheels turn and the operator's seat swivels around, just as it would in a real digger.

Complete

Mr Hurley, who lives in Dixons Green Road, said he had not counted the number of hours he had spent working on the model, but estimated it to be in the hundreds.

"It is hard to keep track as sometimes I will work on a piece all day and then not touch it again for a week or so when I will begin again," he said.

"All-in-all the digger has taken me just over a year to complete. Other models take less time to make."

The digger is the latest in a long line of models Mr Hurley has created using only matches since he first took up the hobby at the age of 11. He started by creating tobacco tins for people in the area – covering tins in matches of varied shapes and sizes to create different designs.



John Hurley painstakingly puts the finishing touches to a gipsy caravan



The craftsmanship on a gipsy caravan



A wheel of the mechanical digger

"I created a lot of the tins for people. When I was growing up a lot of people used to smoke so the used matches were certainly not in short supply," he said.

"After that it became an interest of mine and I started to look at what else I could create using matches. It has grown from there."

He said his mother Florence had been supportive of her son's talent, spending

and pick-axes which are attached to the side, again from matches.

There are also model mangles, which people used to do their washing, with parts which move when a small handle on the side is turned.

The caravans take Mr Hurley around six months to make in all.

Mr Hurley said he had developed a number of his own techniques over the years, which he did not believe anyone else in the world used to create models of this kind.

One technique involves creating tiny notches in matches with his thumbnail in order to bend them to create wheels and similar structures.

Mr Hurley said he sells his models to people who want them – except for one gypsy caravan which he made for his wife Catherine.

Generous

"I made the JCB digger for someone but unfortunately that has fallen through so I would be happy to hear from anyone who wanted to buy it," he said.

At the moment he is repairing a caterpillar digger he made some time ago which was purchased by someone in America.

"Unfortunately when they got it there they dropped it so I have to piece it all back together again. It is quite complicated because this one has caterpillar tracks," he said.

So where does he get the tens of thousands of matches that he needs for his models?

Mr Hurley said many generous people donated matches for him to use in his work, but he also thought nothing of picking up used ones he found lying in the street.

"In fairness that is how it all started years ago when I was a boy gathering what matches I could," he said.

"It is a shame for them to go to waste when I can make them something with them."

Anyone interested in buying Mr Hurley's mechanical digger can telephone him on 01384 825894.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

AN action plan was launched to tidy up the derelict Birmingham-Wolverhampton railway line, dubbed 'the worst view from a train window in Britain'. Image-conscious West Midlands County Council planners want to get rid of spoil heaps and derelict factories.

A FIREMAN saved the life of a 16-year-old girl by catching her as she plummeted to the ground after jumping off a narrow ledge. David Drury caught the teenager after she climbed onto the ledge 30ft up, but lost her grip.

BALLET students in Bilston set a record for the school's highest set of exam results. More than 75 per cent of pupils at the Roma Weekes School of Dance scored at least 80 out of a possible 100, with almost half being awarded honours.

1993...

A FAREWELL reception was held for a leading Wolverhampton clergyman as he took a new appointment. The Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield was the town's Bishop for eight years and was inducted to be the Bishop of Manchester.

DINNER lady Jean Parker signed off after 24 years on playground patrol at a Sedgley school. She supervised meals and play times for two generations, including her own four children.

NEARLY 1,000 people formed a human chain to celebrate the opening of nature trail for the disabled at Walsall special school. The path was carved out by Walsall's TA unit to provide access for wheelchair-bound and handicapped youngsters. Children, parents and teachers joined hands at a giant opening party at Three Crowns School.

2003...

ONE of the Black Country's oldest off-licences called last orders after more than a century of trading. The Wine Keg in Brook Street, Gornal Wood, known locally as The Kitchen, closed due to the retirement of proprietors Jim and Janet Cartwright.

FEATHERS were flying in Shipley after a relaxation-loving parrot was snatched from his garden centre home. Jarvis, an 18-month old Jardine parrot, was stolen from under the noses of staff at Gardenland, Bridgnorth Road.

SPRING fever swept across the West Midlands as sun-worshippers basked in the brightest March on record. Temperatures of around 15C became the norm as the region saw over three weeks without a single drop of rain.

Great Bridge tiles & bathrooms

Huge range of tiles in stock First Quality - No graded tiles

FANTASTIC EASTER OFFERS



Complete Shower Bath (P Shape or L Shape) inc Screen & Front Panel

Only £229



800m or 900m Quadrant Enclosure 6mm Glass Lifetime Guarantee, c/w Tray & Waste

Only £179

Unit 4 Tinsley Street, off Whitehall Road, Great Bridge West Midlands DY4 7LH

Telephone: 0121 448 3437



'If it wasn't for my foster parents, Alan and Sarah, I wouldn't be the football coach I am today.'

Foster or adopt with us and help a child achieve their goals.

For details of our open evenings or for more information please call **01384 458585** or visit our website www.barnardos.org.uk

Believe in children
Barnardo's
Barnardo's is a registered charity No. 210004-0001-0001



Halesowen Fireplaces

AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

Complete Fireplace Packages

from £499

(including fire)



For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom

(opposite Kwik Fit on Long Lane)

Telephone 0121 559 9985

Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

GRANTS Bookkeeping Services

Open 7 days per week 9am - 9pm

"MIDDLE MAN SERVICE"

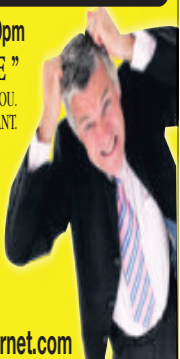
LET US PREPARE YOUR ACCOUNTS FOR YOU. READY TO PRESENT TO YOUR ACCOUNTANT. SAVE MONEY AND TIME.

• Accounts Preparation
• Self Assessment
• VAT • P.A.Y.E. • Bookkeeping

30 Years in Business

Call 01384 568013

Email: grantwilletts@btinternet.com



LETTERS

Advertising a job is now a joke

I AM so angry I do not know where to start.

As a small business owner, in this current economic climate I thought the Job Centre plus would be grateful of me giving them the opportunity to advertise two vacancies, one full-time and one part-time.

After trying several different telephone numbers and listening to numerous recorded messages eventually I got to speak to a human being.

Unfortunately this person was of no help or use to me and the current system to advertise a vacancy is

nothing more than a joke. It is no longer possible to give a job centre employee the details of your business and the type of people you are looking for, you have to go through one of the following:

1. Register on line and go through a maze of questions which are time consuming and mostly irrelevant.
 2. Send and receive job details by fax.
 3. Request register details by post.
- I gave up with the online registration as it would not accept my email. I do not have fax facility. I wanted to fill the vacancies as

quickly as possible so thought post was not suitable. Whatever happened to human contact where you could discuss the positions available and the type of candidate you are looking for to fill the roll.

If it is this difficult to advertise a job opportunity what is it like for the poor people attempting to find employment. Someone somewhere needs to take a look at the system in place and sort it out.

RUSS PEARCE
School Street
Sedgley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Talk about rejuvenation amounts to just hot air

I SEE a new housing estate is being built on the site of the old gas works in Constitution Hill, Dudley.

Although I appreciate the need for new housing, I am sure this site could have been better used as a shopping centre or for a well known supermarket, something which would have helped to bring trade back into Dudley.

This would have been ideal as the area is situated right by the Flood Street car parks.

This is another opportunity missed. Time and time again Dudley Council promise to rejuvenate Dudley town centre and then it turns out to be hot air, until Dudley is now officially one of the worst town centres in the country!

This is disgraceful and Dudley Council ought to be ashamed of itself.

J WESTLEY
Summerfield Road
Dudley

Nothing to attract visitors to Dudley

I HAVE to disagree with J Westley who considers a new shopping centre or supermarket would be better than housing built on the old gas works site.

Dudley has too many empty shops now because as the retailers found to their cost, the only people that shop in Dudley are Dudley folk so housing a few more would probably benefit the town. What is there to encourage anyone, shoppers or retailers to come to Dudley, parking is a disgrace, the bus depot is filthy with toilets beyond belief for a public place. There is no train service and the only thing of interest to any outsider is the Zoo.

The only way to put Dudley back on the map is to provide something that will bring people in and a good opportunity for that would be to open up the Hippodrome again and open it day and night. We and thousands of others love a good show but have to travel to Birmingham for the nearest, but there is a good train service, nice clean eating houses so when we go we make a day of it. So many folks could do the same at Dudley if they had something to encourage them. Everyone would benefit, shops, restaurants and taxi services.

JENNY JAMES, Dock Road, Wordsley

Hospital parking charges exorbitant

ONCE again the sick and vulnerable are forced to pay more for their parking at Russells Hall Hospital.

The people who have to attend that establishment have no option but to park there to obtain treatment.

At the best of times it's a blood-pressure-raising experience to park and then to be subject to over-booked clinics where they are virtual prisoners unable to leave the car parks and therefore being forced into exorbitant charges.

We now have the chief executive Paula Clark trolloing out the usual rubbish that they have "not taken this lightly". Please! Don't make your stance worse by lessening the truth. Perhaps Ms Clark can explain why she believes that "this brings the cost of our parking in line with many local trusts" more acceptable?

STUART FOX
Halesowen

Hawthorn Windows



A family run business with majority of work coming from recommendations

Why pay more? Deal direct with the owners, no salesmen, and see the difference
Doors from £450
Composite Doors from £630
Conservatories from £4500
Ring for more details

Specialists in Door, Window, Porch and Conservatory Installations

Composite Doors from £630

Wide choice of colours available

Misty units replaced

WE OFFER GREAT DEALS ON ALL UPVC PRODUCTS

Quality products at quality prices

10 year guarantee

Faulty door locks and window hinges replaced

We will beat any quote

FENSA registered

**Unit 1, Shenstone Trading Estate, Bromsgrove Road,
Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3XB
Tel: 0121 559 6320**

Replace Your Tired Kitchen, Bathroom or Bedroom With A Makeover...

Did you know that, 80% of our customers are retired? Find out why they trust us for yourselves...

40% OFF
Doors and Drawers
Before 30th April

PLUS 10% OFF
All New Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms
Book your no obligation Quote Today!!
0121 550 4821 or 07726 104200
Offers cannot be combined

Laminate flooring in tile form - very classy
Wet Wall Panelling for bathrooms, no more grouting

Budget range of flat-pack kitchens, super 18mm, for better value and quality than any of the major retailers inclusive of soft close doors, and drawers

OVER 100 DOOR STYLES, AVAILABLE IN ANY COLOUR YOU CAN NAME
OVER 200 WORKTOP FINISHES
ALL CABINETS AND WARDROBES 18MM PRE-BUILT

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Delta

Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Baumatic, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more

Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee
What our customers say!
"...it looks like a palace..."
"...definitely recommend 'Quality Kitchens' to our friends and family..."
"...totally professional from beginning to end..."

No False Promises! No Pressure!

Homeowners...

Looking to sell?

Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay

Just moved in?

Let us help to transform your property into a dream home

Decided to stay?

Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential
Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

www.qkm.org.uk

WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN!!

- Minimal disruption
- Free design service
- Unbeatable prices

OPEN:

Monday-Friday 9.30 am-5.00 pm
Saturday 10.00 am-2.00 pm



Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

And Associated Companies

Oak Lodge Buildings, Furnace Hill
Halesowen B63 3LZ

Tel: 0121 550 4821 Mobile: 07726 104200

Terms & conditions apply to all offers

At QKM

We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market

THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN
Membership No A120074



'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'

INSPIRATIONAL FIRES & FIREPLACES Be Inspired



Phone now for free no obligation home survey
Showroom: 404-406 Bearwood Road, Bearwood B66 4EX Tel: 0121 429 3186

Opening Times: Monday-Saturday 10.00 am-6.00 pm
www.inspirationalfires.co.uk email: inspirationalfires@hotmail.co.uk



NEWS

Residents still clearing up after badger blight

A CUL-DE-SAC continues to be blighted by badgers tearing up gardens and burrowing into a sandstone bank near homes in Stourbridge.

People living in The Haven, Wordsley, have to clear up damage caused by the animals every day with plants in their gardens uprooted and mess left on driveways.

Residents say badgers have plagued the area for around four years but because the animals are a protected species finding a solution to the problem has proved difficult.

Part of the sandstone bank was removed by Dudley Council following complaints to prevent debris from burrowing badgers causing damage to properties.

But residents said nothing further had been done since and the badgers still remained a constant problem.

Lorraine Price, aged 81, lives next to the sandstone bank where the badgers have dug out their setts. "I have to come out most days to sweep the debris from my drive. I have asked for the bottom of the bank to be netted off to help with the problem but nothing has happened," she said.

Cabinet member for housing, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said inspections had been carried out last August and November but there had been "no significant signs of disruption".

"Further inspections will now be carried out and regular monitoring surveys undertaken in relation to the sandstone bank," he said.

Brewing festival in city

A NEW brewing festival will be staged in Birmingham in the summer. Birmingham Beer Bash takes place on July 26 and 27 at the Bond Company, a former canal-side warehouse, Fazeley Street, Digbeth. The event will showcase the beers from the home and abroad with more than 100 cask and keg beers served in three bars. Profits will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Shopping centre court



Lawn Tennis Association cardio team leader Sam Richardson with Ava Brabazon, aged four, Jacob Brabazon, six, both of Wombourne, and Harrison Beynon-Pierce, aged 11, of Stourbridge

VISITORS to Merry Hill shopping centre were served up tennis with a difference as it hosted cardio tennis – more fitness than technique.

Taster sessions saw the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) give people of all ages the chance to have a go at the centre.

Sophie Curthoys, LTA national products manager, said: "It was really successful and we'll keep talking with Merry Hill to see how we can roll these fun days out during the year."

A mini tennis court was set up for children to play mini tennis, which has smaller courts, nets, rackets and lower bouncing balls.

Adults could try cardio tennis –

tennis-based drills played to pumping music on a tennis court.

Ten-minute taster sessions saw people learn the basics and get a free coupon for a session at a local club or gym.

Mrs Curthoys said there are more than 650 UK venues with cardio tennis and the average player could burn about 600 calories a session, regardless of skill at tennis.

She said she was not sure how many people tried it during a three-day event but a recent similar event in London had attracted about 700 people.

For information on cardio tennis and other variations of the game go to www.allplaytennis.com

SPRING SALE up to save 30%

Huge Range of Quality Concrete / Metal / Wooden Storage Sheds – Workshops Single & Double Garages Log Cabins – Garden Rooms

✓ Free Quotations ✓ Old Buildings Removed inc Asbestos ✓ Base Laying Service ✓ Free Delivery & Fitting

Show Site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street, West Bromwich B70 9SJ (Next to Staples)

Visit our website: www.bettabuildings.co.uk

Call us now: 0121 553 4682

We make it BETTA BUILDINGS

Wooden Sheds



6ft x 4ft £195 8ft x 6ft £270 10ft x 8ft £430

Concrete Garages

Roof replacement also available inc Asbestos



Single 16ft x 8ft £1442 Double 16ft x 16ft £2802

Summer Houses



7ft x 5ft £495 8ft x 6ft £550 8ft x 8ft £640

Easter Eggstravaganza

BATHROOM MAGIC

Enjoy a little luxury without shelling out



Get cracking and visit us for eggcellent bargains instore now

'Many Ex-displays to clear with over 50% off due to showroom refurbishment'



Bathroom Magic is a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen and have been awarded a certificate for our high standard of quality and service

FULL DESIGN SERVICE AND INSTALLATION SERVICE
"Sit back and let us do everything - we will come and visit, measure up, design, supply and install your dream bathroom" (Supply Only also available)
FREE quotations 3 year guarantee on installations WET ROOM SPECIALISTS

UNIT 35, ENTERPRISE TRADING ESTATE, HURST LANE, BRIERLEY HILL DY5 1TX 01384 79300
www.bathroommagictd.co.uk

Opening times: Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm Saturday 10 am-4 pm Sunday Closed. Closed Easter Monday



NEWS

Samuel's tasty treat



Muffin Break director Heather Teese with 12-year-old Samuel Duffell, who was making muffins

A SCHOOLBOY learned how to bake one of his favourite foods as a special treat.

Samuel Duffell, aged 12, visited staff at Muffin Break, in Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre, to learn how the muffins are made. And it was not long before the youngster, who attends Pedmore Technology College, was having a go at making one of the treats himself.

Samuel had to undergo treatment to remove four teeth at Russells Hall Hospital in January.

After the operation, he was asked by volunteer Steve Field, who runs the Wishing Well charity based at the hospital's children's ward, what he would like as a treat when he got better.

The arrangements were made and the visit took place last week. Samuel's mum Heidi, of Dudley, said he had a wonderful time meeting staff at Muffin Break and seeing how the cakes were made. "He was really excited about going and he had a really great time. He absolutely adores muffins so this was the perfect treat for him. It is really kind of everyone to organise this treat for him."

Taxi drivers planning a protest over white cars

DOZENS of taxi drivers in Dudley are planning three 'slow drives' through the town in protest at councillors who refused a change in policy over car colours.

by Andrew Turton

They claim the council rules to only allow white private hire vehicles is squeezing their incomes as the colour is more expensive due to its current popularity with celebrities.

However, councillors say a single colour is safer for customers as it makes taxis more recognisable.

Members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association have now voted to stage the slow drives, which will go past Dudley Council House, to highlight their concerns.

But they have decided against a full strike, saying they do not want to cause problems for their customers.

Group chairman Shaz Saleem said the association is also taking legal advice to see if it can mount a challenge against the council's restriction.

He added: "I welcome the move from our members because they want to send out a message to the council

that we want to be treated with respect.

"The majority of our members voted against going on strike because if we had gone out then it would have been unfair on the customers who have shown us a lot of support.

"We have many people who rely on us to take them to hospital appointments, shopping, to the airport and other customers who have disabilities for which we provide a service.

"There will be a slow drive organised because all the taxi drivers want to show the council the strength of feeling over this."

More than 1,000 drivers and customers had signed a petition calling for the rules to be changed.

Mr Saleem, who is managing director at Beacon Taxis, in Sedgley and Express Taxis, in Halesowen, said that white cars can cost up to £2,000 extra.

Hagley Kitchens

Beautiful Kitchens & Bathrooms, Designed with Imagination and Skillfully Fitted with Care

FREE
Built in
Dishwasher



Our cabinets are made locally at our state of the art facility here in the Black Country

Guaranteed unbeatable on price

37 Years
of Happy
Customers

"Outstanding kitchen, thoughtfully designed, excellent service"

Mrs Anderson, Hayley Green

"They gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." Sandra Donnelly, Kingswinford

"A major project completed on time without any problems" Gill McKenzie, Codsall

"We must have changed our minds a dozen times, they happily made the changes - and without any extra costs" Jeni & Tony Kingston, Tettenhall

"Our beautiful, top of the range ovens, were supplied at better than internet prices, delivered, installed and fully guaranteed" Mrs & Mr Griffiths, Halesowen

Visit our website to see some of our range www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

Call us now for your
FREE, no obligation
survey and design
07776 207596
OR: 0121 602 3031

Advertisement Feature

The Dilshad International Restaurant

At the hub of the community for over 25 Years

As the Dilshad International Restaurant approaches 26 years in business we take a look at this popular restaurant that is firmly at the hub of the local community.

Located at the top of Mucklow Hill on the busy A458 into Birmingham, this restaurant has been serving Halesowen and Quinton for over a quarter of a century and has built up an enviable reputation and a loyal customer base. Owner Mr Abdul is now seeing the third generation of

his original customers dine regularly as their children and grandchildren have become part of the fabric of the place.

What makes the Dilshad the "go to" restaurant is the combination of outstanding quality, attentive service and exceptional value that is on offer. Diners Nigel and Carol Caldicott were present at the opening night of the business over 25 years ago. "We have been coming just about every week since it opened and have never had a sub-standard meal. We brought our granddaughter here when she was just one week old, she's eight now but loves the place as much as we do. That's one of the things that set the place apart, it genuinely is family friendly.

One customer even has a dish on the menu named after him. Graham Whitehouse, inspiration for the "Graham Special" and wife Pat commented, "They look after us like Royalty. There is always a bottle of Chablis chilling and naming a dish after me has made me something of a local celebrity". Even their Bulldog Albert gets the Star treatment, "When it was Albert's 10th birthday we thought we would treat him to his favourite dinner - pizza and papadoms. When we told Mr Abdul that it was his birthday he wrapped up a stack of them as a gift for Albert, and they didn't touch the sides on the way down!"

So what is it that makes this place so magnetic to its diners? Yes, the food is of exceptional quality, I tried the Graham Special (of course), opting for the chicken version and was delighted with flavour and richness of the dish. Just the

right amount of heat but the spice blend bought my taste buds to life and I can honestly say that I have not eaten anything so satisfying for a long, long time. But it isn't just the food, yes the food is outstanding and there is ample free parking at the front of the restaurant but there were other aspects that give the place a holistic feel. What I mean by that is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The service is as attentive as I have experienced anywhere and many of the diners were on first name terms with many of the waiters. The value is clear, the Dish Dash promotion that is available from Sunday to Thursday means you can have a 4 course meal for just £7.95, now that's what I call value.

On top of all of this I got the feeling that the place is like a Social Club, where everybody seems to know everyone else. It seems to fill the void left by the demise of our local pubs, traditionally the place where communities came together and socialised. They regularly run charity events for the likes of Help for Hero's and Kidney Kids Appeal. When I asked Mr Abdul what his secret was he said simply, "It's because I value my customers, every one of them. They are what makes the business come alive and my thanks will always be with them for supporting us."

If you are looking to take in a meal this Easter then you can be assured of a warm welcome and a delicious serving of quality food at the Dilshad International. Not just a at the hub of the community, but a corner stone of the area.

Dilshad
INTERNATIONAL

FREE Home Delivery
(2 mile Radius)



Fully air conditioned, fully
licensed, serving over
25 years at the heart of
Halesowen and Quinton

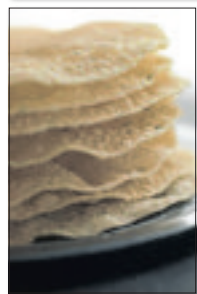
The finest cuisine, freshly
prepared with
90% fat free,
a dish to satisfy all tastes
Newly Refurbished

Sunday-Thursday
DishDash
4-Course Meal
£7.95

Bring your own
wine & beer only

★★★ 3 Star - Environmental Health Officers Certificate

14-15 Halesowen Road, Halesowen
www.dilshadinternational.co.uk
Tel: 0121 421 6549 or 421 5217



MEMORY LANE



Christ Church, Lye, pictured in about 1900 before its redesign



The much-changed Christ Church as it looks today



The Rev James Bromley's tomb with the words: "He being dead, yet speaketh."

Stern minister loved by his flock



The tablet put up in Christ Church, Lye

"HIS freshness of heart and youthfulness of spirit led him to love and sympathise, especially with young men in whose service he spent himself and for whose sake he counted not his life dear that he might win them to Christ."

So reads the inscription on a tablet dedicated to the Rev James Bromley in Christ Church, Lye, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary.

The few surviving historical documents from the period suggest the inhabitants were not exactly renowned for their hospitality, and the presence of a clergyman was not a welcome one.

In fact, Mr Bromley's predecessor, the not-so-popular Melsup Hill, is said to have been stoned out of the village by infuriated residents.

At this time the main industries of the area were nail-making, chain-making and coal mining and Mr Bromley arrived in 1844 into this harsh, industrial climate with strong views about how people should go about their daily lives.

Yet his methods clearly struck a chord with the populace. One of his first notable acts was to rescue two miners from drown-

by Peter Madeley

ing – a deed that immediately won the hearts of the people of Lye.

Mr Bromley set about the monumental task of attempting to civilise his unruly flock. Parishioners were taken down to the River Stour and shown how to bathe, and taught table manners while sharing food in his home.

The minister was a staunch advocate of abstinence, and despite his frail stature he would take stern measures to enforce this restraint when necessary.

He was known to enter local hosteleries and drag out unsuspecting church members who had reverted to their drunken ways.

Response

One tale in the memoirs of his successor, the Rev David Robertson, recounts him striking a church member across the back with his cane after seeing him playing the fool in the street.

The young man's response was to visit the priest the next morning and thank him!

Mr Bromley's dedication is probably best exemplified by his daily ritual of rising at 4am to hold services and preach to miners on their way to work. At a time when educa-

tional institutions were a rarity, he also acted as a teacher to the young men of Lye in an effort to stop them from hanging around in the streets.

During the early years of his tenure he increased the capacity of the church, making seating available for more than 1,000 parishioners – a quite remarkable figure when you consider the population of Lye was around 4,000 at the time.

Sadly, Mr Bromley died suddenly in his chair in December 19, 1865 after 21 years of devoted service, leaving a widow and 10 children. He was aged 54.

In a poignant twist, his sermon the previous Sunday was based on the text from Hebrews 11:4 from the King James Bible: "He being dead, yet speaketh."

Those words can still be seen to this day, carved on his tombstone outside the front of Christ Church.

The high esteem with which his congregation held him in was shown by the fact that almost £3,000 was raised for his family, at a time when the living wage was only £240 per year.

This figure would equate to around £175,000 today.

Thanks to Bob and Sheila Field for their help in researching this article.



The Rev James Bromley who died in his chair in 1865

Elizabeth Perry
FIREPLACE STUDIO
 For quality FIRES, FIREPLACES & STOVES
OPEN EASTER SATURDAY & MONDAY
 Bank Holiday



FIRE & FIREPLACE PACKAGE DEALS this EASTER



UP TO 20% OFF FIREPLACES
DUDLEY ROAD, LYE, STOURBRIDGE, DY9 8DU
 www.epfireplacestudio.co.uk
01384 423985
 The Old OK American Diner

TOTAL PLASTICS
 THE ULTIMATE IN BUILDING PLASTICS

FREE FLAT SCREEN TV
 WITH OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2 CONFIRMED BOOKINGS*
 TO SUPPLY AND FIT AN AVERAGE SIZE 3 BEDROOM HOUSE WITH 7 WHITE 'A' RATED UPVC WINDOWS, FRONT AND BACK DOOR. SUBJECT TO A SITE SURVEY.
FROM £3,400 INC VAT*
 All Enquiries Welcome Free Day And Evening Surveys No Job Too Small

WE SUPPLY AND FIT TOP QUALITY WINDOWS, DOORS AND CONSERVATORIES, FASCIAE AND GUTTERING AND ALSO SUPPLY A LARGE RANGE OF BATHROOMS AT TRADE PRICES CERTASS APPROVED
 White fascias, soffits and guttering supplied, fitted including Vat on an average 3 bedroom house
From £1,295*
 *Terms and conditions apply

CALL IN OUR SHOWROOM AND SEE OUR RANGE OF BATHROOMS ON DISPLAY NOW

HIGH GLOSS FURNITURE
 500mm Gloss White 500mm Basin £26.44
 WC Unit £60.38 500mm Mirror Unit £78.45
 500mm Gloss White 450mm Basin Unit £59.90 and Top £80.25

Underground Drainage Soil and Waste
 900mm Quadrant Enclosure £108.90
 *Satin Silver * 550mm Radius * Reversible
 * Sliding Doors for easy access * Quick release wheels for easy clean
 * 5mm Toughened safety glass * Pearlstone tray
Asseby
 Asseby Basin £35.64
 Asseby Pedestal £18.48
 Asseby Pan £58.08
Melbourne
 Melbourne Pan & Cistern £51.70
 Melbourne Basin £17.82
 Melbourne Pedestal £7.92

BATHROOMS AND WINDOWS SUPPLIED
 UNIT 1 GARRATTS LANE OLD HILL HALESOWEN B64 5RE
Tel: 01384 573 903

NEWS

Punching for charity



Back from left, coach and treasurer Steve Gough with boxers, Ricky Summer, Luke Paddock and Ryan Aston and, front, event organiser Mitch Gough

A DUDLEY boxing club is hoping for a knockout event when it offers amateurs the chance to get in the ring with professionals to raise money for charity.

The Priory Boxing Club is hoping to raise £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support when it hosts its sponsored Sparathon on April 27.

Organiser Mitch Gough, whose father Steve and uncle Paul run the club, said: "Every year we put on charity events to raise awareness of the gym and to raise money for various causes.

"This charity is very close to Paul's heart as they supported his parents when they were diagnosed with cancer.

"We want to get people involved and raise money for a good cause. Obviously the lads aren't going to knock their heads off. We want to raise money, not scare them."

The professionals booked to take part at the Priory Road club are Ryan Aston, Tommy Ghent, Ricky Summers, Luke Paddock, Lance Brookes and Ryan Corrigan.

Prizes will be available for the top fundraisers. Mr Gough said they could include signed memorabilia. A ticket to fight another amateur costs £20 and to fight a professional £30. Both prices cover coaching and equipment, as well as a commemorative Fight Cancer Priory Park T-shirt.

To book, visit www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk.

Change of heart over building on old war club

PLANS to build four care homes for young adults on the site of a derelict war memorial club have been withdrawn and replaced with an alternative scheme for four houses.

The scheme to demolish Amblecote War Memorial Club and build four detached care homes for young adults was submitted to Dudley Council in January.

But agents for the applicant Bains Builders Limited said further consultation had raised concerns over traffic levels going in and out of the site if the development went ahead.

The applicant had decided to withdraw the original scheme and submit the revised proposal to build four regular houses on the site instead.

These plans have now been submitted to Dudley Council for consideration.

Under the new scheme, the dilapidated club building will still be demolished but will be replaced by the houses - each would have four en-suite bedrooms. The homes would be brick with the style designed to be in keeping with existing surrounding properties.

Cars would get to the site from the existing access point in Amblecote High Street and each house will have two car parking spaces.

Agent Tommy Wong said in a report: "Following the recent submission for four care homes further consultation took place.

"Concerns were raised regarding excessive traffic flow going in and out of the site. It was therefore the applicant's decision to withdraw the application and resubmit a revised proposal.

"All comments received have been taken on board and incorporated in the scheme submitted as part of this application."

The former club building has suffered vandalism, fire and weather damage since it closed in 2002.

It was founded in 1921 for ex-servicemen. A lack of bookings and activities was cited for its closure.

The site was on the market for three years.

by Andrew Turton

SELL IT OR PAWN IT!

We lend on diamond rings, watches, gold coins inc. sovereigns, all hallmarked & unhallmarked gold & Asian gold jewellery

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT ♦ IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUESTED ♦ INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED

THE GOLD BUYERS YOU CAN TRUST

TOP PRICES PAID FOR UNWANTED GOLD, ASIAN GOLD & SILVER ANY CONDITION



Rex Johnson & Sons

Three generations of family jewellers

14 Birdcage Walk, Dudley



Hasbury Windows Ltd

For a cracking deal this Easter, it has to be HASBURY

Excellent service from start to finish. Reliable and friendly.

MR G UPTON
HALESOWEN

Very pleased with the new windows. Fitters were very tidy, everything left clean.

L A KERRY
HALESOWEN

Lovely job, fitters made no mess! Would definitely recommend again.

MR & MRS LEWIS
LOWER GORNAL



Sealed Units Replacement Available From £10

6 Windows for just £1800

including fitting and VAT

20% off all doors

(Terms and conditions apply)

French Doors £750 • Back Doors £450

All orders placed receive a free Easter Egg

Throughout Easter we will beat any genuine written quote

- * Your local well established business offering top quality products and service
- * No payment until completion
- * Call us now for a great deal on your new windows, doors and conservatories
- * Visit our showroom * Deal direct with the owner
- * If you want quality, value and service it 'has to be Hasbury'!

9 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9AA

0121 421 7001 / 0121 421 2104 / 01384 78796

(opposite the Stag & Three Horseshoes)

SHOWROOM OPEN:

Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm • Sat 10 am-2 pm

Phonelines open 9 am-9 pm

FENSA
Registered 30179

Wow! Great value coach holidays

Coaches depart from your local West Midlands pick up point

Wow! Babbacombe
3/4 nights half board
Ashley Rise / Norcliffe Hotel
4 days £129.95 **5 days £129.95**
Fri 3, 24 May, 28 Jun
Mon 15, 22, 29 Apr, 6, 13, 20 May

Southport Keswick & Lake District
Britannia Hotel, Standish
Mon 29 Apr
27 May, 10, 24 Jun
5 days £159.95

Special Events
• Coronation Festival
• Chelsea Flower Show
• Spalding Flower Parade
• Crich Tramway Village
• London Shows
• Ken Dodd
£69.95 Call for Brochure

Longleat Safari & Bath
Sat 27 Apr, 15 Jun
20 Jul
Overnight half board
2 days £89.95

Sandown Isle of Wight
Channel View / Tarnic 2 Hotel
4 DAYS Fri 19, 26 Apr, 3, 17 May
5 DAYS Mon 15, 22, 29 Apr, 6, 13 May
£139.95

Wow! Glenshee & Cairngorms
4 nights half board
Spittal of Glenshee Hotel
Mon 29 Apr
27 May, 10, 24 Jun
5 days £179.95

Travelstyle
miles more smiles
Call for brochure **0844 682 0065**
www.travelstyletours.co.uk

USE YOUR LOFT!



Bison
Loft Ladders

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. The stairs are made and fitted by our Midlands craftsmen using timber from sustainable sources. A gas strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 10 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Patented gas strut operation
- Fitted in approx 2 hours

Flooring and lighting can also be provided, adding a very useful additional room to your home.

£395
Special offer for limited time only starting from
£240
(incl VAT)
Quote Ref B2

Safety hand rail Unique to Bison
7,000
Over 5,000 installations to date!



All major credit cards accepted

theloftstairscompany

The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 59, Atcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG
Visit our website www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk

Freephone 0800 389 1281

Plimbley Travel
Luxury Coach Travel
Door - to - Door Pick-ups

APR 15-19	WEYMOUTH	5 DAYS	£215 HB
APR 22-26	EASTBOURNE	5 DAYS	£235 HB
APR 22-26	PAIGNTON	5 DAYS	£225 HB
APR 29-MAY 3	ISLE OF WIGHT	5 DAYS	£255 HB
MAY 12-17	LLANDUDNO	6 DAYS	£275 HB
MAY 13-17	TENBY ALL INCLUSIVE	5 DAYS	£239
MAY 20-24	EASTBOURNE	5 DAYS	£239 HB
MAY 20-24	TORQUAY TRIBUTE TO THE STARS (WITH INCLUSIVE BAR)	5 DAYS	£285 HB
MAY 27-31	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	5 DAYS	£255 HB
MAY 27-31	WEYMOUTH	5 DAYS	£275 HB
JUN 1-8	LLANDUDNO	8 DAYS	£379 HB
JUN 3-7	WEYMOUTH	5 DAYS	£239 HB
JUN 8-15	TORQUAY	8 DAYS	£349 HB
JUN 9-14	PERRANPORTH	6 DAYS	£305 HB

2013 Brochures Now Available
01902 789723/0121 369 0233
www.plimbleytravel.co.uk

Have You Been Injured in an Accident?

NOT your fault?

Your claim will be handled by friendly specialist solicitors who are local to you.

Keep 100% of your compensation
• No deductions
Win or lose - you pay nothing

Middleton Dummer SOLICITORS

FREE HOME VISITS
0121 544 4788

Please contact:
Rob, Adam or Angela at
High Tree's House, 1-9 Pool Lane, Oldbury, Warrley, West Midlands B69 4QX

Stourbridge Fencing Supplies
HIGH QUALITY, BUDGET COST

WE SUPPLY ALL Fencing Products
Ritting Service Available

Call 07594 841785

Ground Floor, Falcon House
High Street, Lye DY9 8LX

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?
Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

The Halesowen Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

Please call the chronicle team on
01384 353234

HJ COOPER **Shiplap 85p per m**

For all your Timber, DIY & Decking Materials

OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC

• Mouldings • Doors • Windows • Fencing • Sheet Materials
• Frames • Paints • Stair Materials • Decking • Hardwood
• Timber/K/D/Par • Dados • Skirting • Architraves • Roofing

01384 254591
Delivery and Cutting Service. **FREE quotes**
Unit 19, Thornleigh Trading Estate, Farthings Lane, Dudley DY2 8UB

NEWS

Tributes after death of autism group's founder

A CARER who helped set up one of the Black Country's first support groups for families of people suffering with autism has died at the age of 68.

Sylvia Tromans, a founder member of the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Support Group in 1988, originally hosted meetings at her home in Finchfield, Wolverhampton.

She set it up with husband Paul after daughter, Nicola, was diagnosed with autism and dedicated nine years to a group, which started with three members and grew to more than 75 at its peak.

Mother-of-three Jan Playford, 60, attended from the start as son Robert, now 32, was diagnosed with autism.

She said: "Sylvia was the first contact for many parents for over 15 years, not just from Wolverhampton but from Walsall, Dudley and South Staffs."

They provided contact and activities for parents, children and young adults. As numbers grew they linked with West Midlands Autistic Society, which has support groups across the region. Activities included visits to the cinema, and they would rent out the Light House, Wolverhampton.

Her daughter, Nicola, 24, died in 2003 after bowel problems. Mrs Tromans, who died after a short illness, was "unassuming" but "very sincere in trying to do her best for people", her husband said.

She leaves daughter Victoria, 37, who works for the Camphill charity supporting people with learning disabilities.

New gym will bring jobs

A NEW gym chain is to open in Brierley Hill, creating up to 15 jobs. Pure Gym has set its sights on the former Fitness First base in Level Street, which closed last year.

The new 25,402 sq ft gym will employ between 12 and 15 staff and will be open 24 hours a day. Pure Gym spokesman Thomas Inskip confirmed the centre is expected to open in May. Work to refit the building is underway.

Spring in the air, really



Jenny Knott, Katherine Guest, Lucy Greenway and Frankie Whitehouse with lambs and new-born chicks at the Owl and Falconry Centre

THE chilling temperatures may not be showing it, but the lambing season is providing the surest sign yet that spring has almost sprung.

And bosses at an animal centre near Dudley are welcoming a host of baby animals marking the change in seasons.

Three new-born lambs - which are named Dolly, Darrent and Daisy - are among the new residents at the Owl and Falconry Centre.

They have also been joined at the centre at Halfpenny Green Vineyards by three out of 12 chicks expected to hatch soon. The animals are located in the centre's children's 'pets' corner, which was opened six months ago to provide youngsters

with an understanding of where their food comes from.

Also at the centre are 10 pigs, 12 fully-grown chickens, geese and rabbits.

Manager John Hollins said: "Whenever there is a new-born animal at the centre there is excitement among everyone."

"The children enjoy coming in to see, feed and even touch the animals while they walk around the centre. It provides many with their first chance to be up close with some of the animals."

The centre opened 12 months ago and is home to more than 40 birds of prey including barn and eagle owls and falcons.

THIS IS COMPENSATION
£1500
NOW & THOUSANDS LATER



HEAD IN A SPIN AFTER AN ACCIDENT?

CAMP S
SOLICITORS

- Accident that wasn't your fault?
- No win, no fee guaranteed
- 100% compensation paid to you
- For accidents up to 3 years ago
- £100m already claimed for clients

Maximum compensation	
Whiplash injury	£5,150
Chronic whiplash injury	£9,000
Thigh bone fracture	£9,200
Forearm fracture	£12,600
Partial hearing loss	£30,000

Up to £1,500 advance compensation when we accept your case & everything that remains when we settle your claim. See website for terms & conditions.

0800 997 8732

www.compensation.co.uk

Local Tradesmen

"We have found that 60% of our business comes from our advert in the Chronicle"

LB plastering services

To find out how you can advertise from as little as **£10.50 a week**, CONTACT
RYAN COOPER
01384 353 227

thechronicle

Hundreds of pay appeals by workers are on hold

APPEALS by hundreds of council workers over plans to cut their pay have been put on hold after senior staff raised concerns.

It has emerged that about eight of 93 appeals heard so far may see Wolverhampton City Council facing potential legal action. The eight are believed to create pay inequalities between men and women – what the council is trying to remove in new pay arrangements known as “single status”. Under changes announced last year, 5,423 staff will get a pay rise and 1,242 a cut from April 2014. More than 900 appeals have been lodged by those losing out.

Keith Ireland, council strategic director for delivery, said: “The council has addressed its historic pay liabilities and under no circumstances could the council

sanction the creation of any new pay inequalities – this would not only be illegal but would also put the council at enormous financial risk at a time when we are already facing an unprecedented financial challenge.

The conclusion of the review, which has the support of independent expert Sue Hastings and the trade unions, is that the appeals process to date has not been conducted with the necessary level of rigour.”

Every council in the country has been forced to draw up new salary scales that pay men and women equivalent wages for equivalent work. Wolverhampton's appeals are suspended until April 22 which means workers querying pay are now not likely to know the outcome until the autumn.

Cafe plagued by litter

A CAFE owner says he is at his wits' end over the bags of rubbish being left outside the doors of his business in Brierley Hill and wants action taken.

Jamie Owen owns Brierley Sausage and has put up with the bags of household waste turning customers off his business since he took it over on December 13, but now says he has had enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustrations over the situation at the premises, in High Street.

He said some of the rubbish came from nearby flats and was dumped in front of his shop on a regular basis.

Mr Owen, aged 23, said: “It's not

very nice having to ask customers to walk past full rubbish bags piled waist-high but there doesn't seem to be much we can do about it.”

What is even more frustrating for Mr Owen is that his cafe has a four-star hygiene rating from the council but the rubbish bags outside make would-be customers think otherwise.

He said: “It's definitely having a knock-on effect on my trade and it just looks awful having people see all that rubbish stacked up outside the cafe.”

“We take hygiene really seriously but since the first day we came here we had problems with the rubbish.”

Mr Owen decided enough was enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustration while he waited for Dudley Council waste collectors to take away

the latest rubbish. His anger was answered with numerous messages of support from locals and relief when the rubbish was finally collected.

Brierley Hill Traders' Association Shane Birch-Bastock said he had heard reports from a few other shops along the town's High Street experiencing similar problems.

He said: “We've had people using other people's bins before and there have been arguments about that.”

Councillor Judy Foster, said: “Following reports of litter in Brierley Hill our crews have collected from the area and officers are investigating the matter. “We take fly-tipping and littering very seriously. People can report littering to: dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk or by calling 0300 555 2345.

MP hits at cash lottery

A DUDLEY MP has criticised what he sees as a “post-code lottery” in health funding where wealthy areas of the south receive more per head than the West Midlands.

Labour's Ian Austin said the well-heeled residents of Kensington and Chelsea will get £130 per person per year towards public health spending from next month.

But the Black Country, which has much lower life expectancy rates, gets an average of £64 a year per person.

Dudley will receive £59 per head, Sandwell £66 and Wolverhampton £75.

New town hotel is at half way stage



The 63-bedroom Premier Inn takes shape in Dudley

WORK is on track to open a new £3.5million hotel and cafe in Dudley this summer. The 63-bedroom Premier Inn will create 25 new jobs when it opens in Castlegate Business Park in Dudley in June.

The three-storey building will include a Costa coffee house on the ground floor. This week, development manager Gerard Ludlow said the project was half way to completion.

Having started on the foundations and drainage in November, work is now almost finished on the building's roof.

Mr Ludlow, who works for the site developers Stoford, said: “We are right on schedule to have the hotel open this June, despite the bad weather we have been having.”

He added: “We are obviously excited and looking forward to delivering the completed build to Premier Inn.”

“I believe it will be a great addition to the town,” added Mr Ludlow. He said timber framing had been chosen for the structure because of how quick it is to put up as well as it being environmentally friendly.

The hotel project is on land owned by the Government's Homes and Communities Agency. There will be 60 car parking spaces provided.

It will stand near The Village Hotel and a new Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Service office, which will be the service's regional HQ and have 50 workers based there.

Plans for the Premier Inn were approved by Dudley Council last July after bosses from the hotel chain said it would bring a boost for business and tourism. No objections were lodged about the hotel scheme from the council's highways department or environmental health officers.

Work starts on £40m slip road for M-way

EIGHTEEN months of work on a £40 million slip road from the M54 motorway to the i54 business park in South Staffordshire has begun.

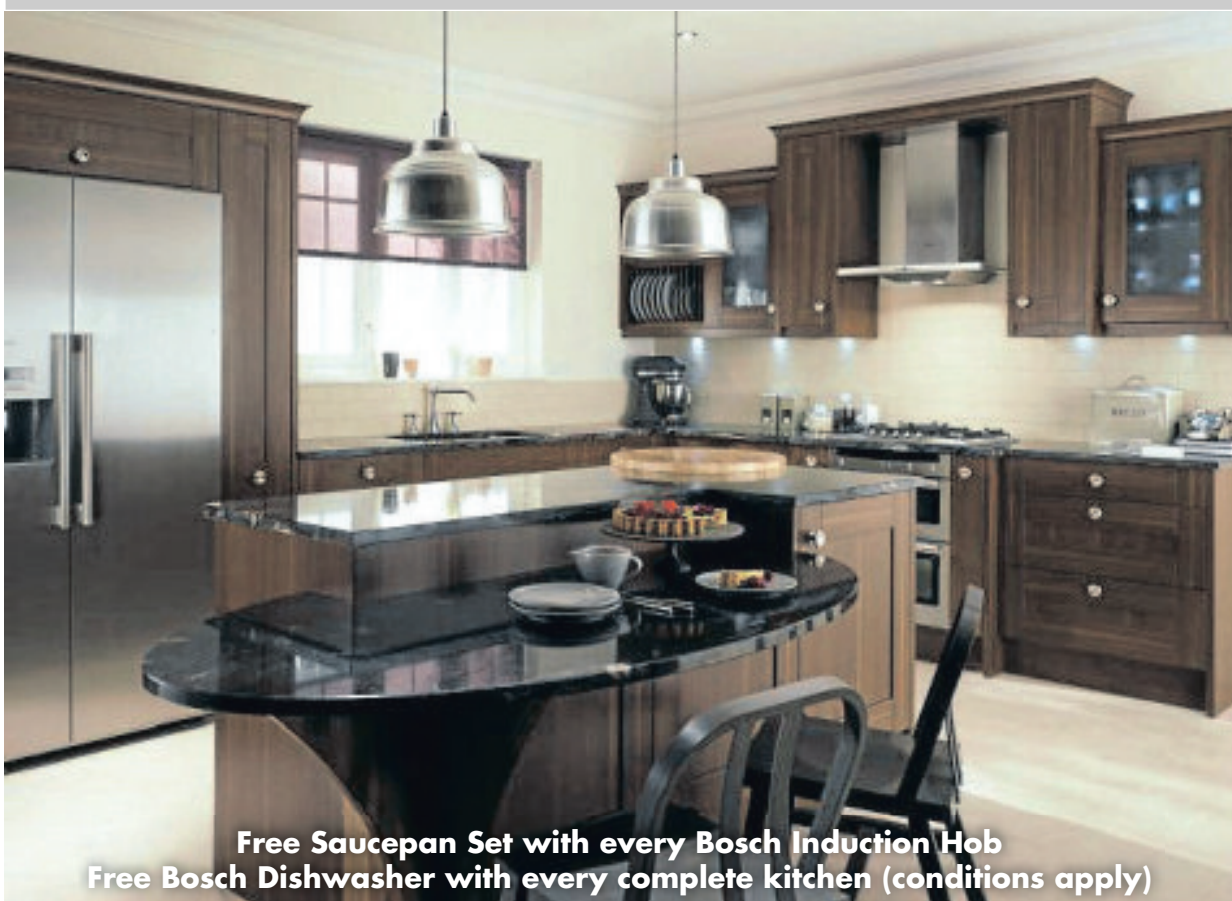
But drivers will not notice any changes straight away as contractors begin initial work.

Narrow lanes and speed limits of 50mph have been planned near to Junction 2 of the M54 near Wolverhampton but these will come into force in a few weeks.

Lane closures on the slip roads to the west side of Junction 2 of the M54 will also be in place. The work is being done to provide easy access to the i54 for traffic going to and from Jaguar Land Rover's £500 million engine plant, which is under construction and where around 1,400 people will work.

Staffordshire County Council and Wolverhampton City Council are jointly funding the motorway works by borrowing money and then repaying it using the business rates they will get from JLR and other companies.

D&S Kitchens Kitchens and Bedrooms



Free Saucepan Set with every Bosch Induction Hob
Free Bosch Dishwasher with every complete kitchen (conditions apply)



**come and visit our
award winning showroom**

Our services include:

- Free Planning and Design
- Installation • Building Work
- Plastering • Plumbing
- Electrics • Tiling • Flooring

Visit our superb showroom:- D & S Kitchens Ltd, Maypole Fields, Cradley, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2QB Showroom

Tel: 01384 343399

visit: www.dandskitchensltd.co.uk

Open 9 am-5 pm Mon-Saturday

Appointments only on Sunday open until 7 pm on Thursdays



FOCUS ON CRADLEY AND CRADLEY HEATH

Families can enjoy events at museum

HADEN Hill museum is offering events to keep families busy over Easter.

Staff at the house off Barrs Road are preparing for five events, starting with an Easter family fun day on Monday, April 1, 12pm-4pm.

On April 4 and 11 Dudley Zoo staff will bring along critters for the "Creature Features" animal handling day between 2pm and 3pm and costing £2.50 per child.

Youngsters can try craft activities on April 3 and 10, 11am-3pm costing 50p per item. Those with a love of knitting or with a desire to take up the skill will be able to learn on the Little Knitters drop in sessions between 11am and 3pm on April 5 and 12 also 50p.

Guest will be able get involved with a sugarcraft and icing demonstration on April 7 from 2.30pm-4.30pm. For information or to book call 01384 569444.

Crafty way to have a chat

A FREE Craft and Chatter day is being held at Cradley Heath Library on April 17.

People should bring along craft materials to work on and they will be able to meet new crafters.

The two hour session starts at 10.30am at the library in Upper High Street.

Leader faces objections over £18m retirement village plan

CAMPAIGNERS were due to raise objections over plans for an £18 million retirement village in Cradley with the leader of Dudley Council.

Planning approval has been granted for the 120-home extra care housing scheme on the former Cradley High School site but protesters say Dudley Council failed to reveal a covenant protecting the area from development.

They are also fighting plans to build an access road through Homer Hill Park.

Friends of Homer Hill Park secretary Valerie Bloomer said that it would be a "disaster" for the area.

She said: "They are claiming it is an improvement for the park, but we know it is not. It's just about the gains the council will make."

"The area of land they will be going through should not be used for anything other than recreation."

"It will be a danger to children and animals. Vehicles of all sizes will be using the road and the plans do not include a pavement."

"It is going to absolutely ruin the park. It is an absolute nightmare."

Councillor Tracy Wood dismissed the claim that the

By Will Ackermann

planning permission did not comply with the covenant.

She added: "I do take what people have said very seriously and I have weighed it all up and I think it is the best thing to do."

"There's already a road there. We use it to do all the maintenance on the park. It's just going to be made slightly bigger and used a bit more."

"I've stipulated there has to be fencing and lighting."

"We are doing everything we can to address safety."

The group was due to discuss the plans with Councillor David Sparks, leader of Dudley Council, at a Cradley Forum meeting last night (Wednesday, March 27).

Homer Hill Park was created after Benjamin Hodgetts, a businessman and chainmaker, helped purchase the land in 1920.



Midlands Conservation Ltd foreman and stonemason Brian Furber at the church



Bricklayer Keith Kilvert is looking at some of the pointing on the roof features



Brian Furber with project manager and property steward Gordon Roberts inspecting the new section of flooring that is being installed inside the church

£150,000 revamp is under way

A TEAM of specialist restorers have begun work on a £150,000 refurbishment of Cradley Baptist church.

The church in Cornreaves Road, Cradley Heath, dates back to 1850 and is having its ornate, terracotta exterior repaired. Floorboards and joists suffering from dry rot being replaced.

Project manager Gordon Roberts said floorboards work had delayed the project - due to be completed in April but now by May.

Initial funding was from English Heritage, who selected the church due to its outstanding historical significance. A further £56,000 is needed from churchgoers for full restoration.

Fundraising events included an open day with the Historic Churches Trust where the churchgoers served refreshments to visitors and there were gift stalls followed by a concert with a four piece band and a cream tea.

Tests for possible TV service problems

TESTS are being carried out in Cradley Heath to examine the potential problem of disruption to television services when 4G mobile broadband is rolled out.

Consumer body at800 is asking residents and businesses in the area to help assess the impact the 800mhz signal will have on Freeview services.

The 4G service enables mobile devices such as smartphones, laptops and tablet PCs to access the internet at super-fast speeds.

With support from mobile operators and broadcasters, at800 has been piloting the service since March 18 and will continue to test it for up to two weeks.

Anyone who notices loss of sound, pixilated images or loss of channels is being urged to notify the company by calling 0333 31 31 800.

Talent event to aid foundation

MUSICIANS can show their talents at Cradley Heath's latest competition.

Black Country Ay' Arf Got Talent at Cradley Heath Library will raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. Tickets for the event on Saturday, April 13, are £2.50 for adults and £1 for children. Show starts at 6.30pm.

Operatic society is to bring chaos

CRADLEY Heath Operatic Society will perform Strictly Chaos on April 18, 19 and 20 at Netheron Arts Centre in Northfield Road, Dudley. Tickets cost £9 and are available by calling 0121 5857380.

HALF TERM MADNESS CARVERY

Monday - Friday **£3.99**

Saturday **£4.99**

Sunday **£6.99**

We also have a main menu to choose from

KIDS EAT FREE

Throughout Half Term March 30th - 13th April

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET BREAKFAST

£3.95

Friday, Saturday & Sunday only
8.30am - 11.00am

THE PARK LANE TAVERN

Park Lane, Colley Gate B63 2NT

01384 345824

www.parklanetavern.co.uk

OFFEN IMITATED NEVER EQUALLED!

Himley Garden Buildings

HEAVY DUTY LOG-LAP SHEDS

Himley Garden Buildings is a company built on tradition, established over 15 years, employing a workforce of dedicated craftsmen, producing the highest quality sectional timber buildings.

Since its inception, Himley Garden Buildings has become synonymous with the words Quality, Service and Reliability. This is further backed by our comprehensive 5 or 15 year guarantee dependent upon cladding choice.

Each building manufactured goes through a rigorous selection process. This includes the hand-selection of raw materials, through to final delivery and erection inspection. Having craftsmen work on just one building at a time, you can be assured that years of dedication and pride is built into every building.

- Tanalised Panels
- 22mm thick/12 mm T & G available
- Low Maintenance, Tongue and Groove
- Available in all sizes

FREE DELIVERY AND ERECTION

Call us For a **FREE Quotation**

Freephone 0800 9961 888
or phone 01384 634005

• Sheds • Summer houses • Playhouses • Potting Sheds • Workshops • Home Offices

2x2m framing throughout, full tongue and groove floor and roof section
OPEN
Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm
Sat 8am - 3pm

"If you can draw it, we can build it!"
HGB House, Maypole Hill, Halesowen, B63 2NZ
Info@himleygardenbuildings.co.uk

CLUB NEWS

Speaker to be Lord Cobham

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham opened the March meeting to a gathering of 49 members and three visitors.

Apologies were read and a minute's silence observed in memory of long-standing member Beryl Grego.

The meeting incorporated the AGM and the chairman reported that all the present officers were standing again. The committee had been restored to its original number.

The treasurer reported that the guild's finances were in a healthy position.

Secretary Sue Ward gave a full report on the extensive activities enjoyed during the previous year, while vice chairman Hazel Heedham read out the constitution of the guild.

The chairman gave a positive report on the past year, but requested that an injection of new blood was required to prevent the demise of the drama group.

The presentation of the shield to the bowls competition winner, Marion Clarke, was made, followed by the speakers' competition cup, to Sue Ward.

Raffle winners were Jill Tranter and Jill Perry. The evening's proceedings were concluded with a very competitive quiz.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 9 from 7.30pm and the speaker will be Lord Cobham.

The competition concerns anything connected with Hagley Hall.

Donation towards orphanage project



Wolverhampton SI president Gail Wedge presents a cheque to Kevin Curtis for £525

FOLLOWING an enjoyable meal, members were entertained by veterinary surgeon Tom Bingham, who spoke of the amusing happenings at his practice.

Tom has been a vet for more than 30 years. he is involved at Monmore Green Greyhound track as well having his own Veterinary Practice in Wolverhampton.

Members were pleased to welcome back

WOLVERHAMPTON SI

Kevin Curtis from the Footprints Orphanage in Kenya. Members have committed themselves to long term support of the orphanage and a donation of £525 will be used to buy books to support the development of a school attached to the site.

Federation quiz invitation

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Guilds are holding their annual quiz on Monday June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club from 7pm.

All guilds within the West Midlands Federation are invited to enter the quiz. Teams consisting of four

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

guild members may enter. This event has been organised by Jean Williams.

The next event will be the National AGM being held in Harrogate on June 12 The

guest speakers will be announced at a later date.

Most guilds within the Federation area are recruiting for new members. Anyone interested is asked to ring Federation secretary Hazel Butt on 01299 250957 for any information about guilds in your locality.

Hassle Free Days Out and Short Breaks

- WESTON SUPER MARE (2 seats for £25) Monday 1st April (Bank Holiday)
- WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK Thursday 4th April (Half Term)
- WELLESBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD UPON AVON Saturday 6th April (2 seats £20)
- DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK & ZOO Tuesday 9th April (Half Term)
- LLANDUDNO - Day Trip from £14.00 Saturday 13th April (Half Term)
- TORQUAY - 5 DAYS HALF BOARD, Derwent Hotel, Just £249 p/p Tribute to the Stars, Mon 24th June

BOOK TODAY
Pick up point in
Halesowen



Kings Norton Coaches

Call for a 2013 Excursion Brochure
0121 550 8519

or view on-line at: www.kingsnortoncoaches.co.uk
12-53 seater coaches available for private hire

Airport/Seaport and City Transfers - Stag and Hen Parties

Beautiful Bathrooms for Accessible Living

Baths and Showers to Make Life Easier



10 REASONS TO HAVE AN IDEAL HOMECARE ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM

- 1 Family business established over 20 years
- 2 Vast majority of work comes from recommendations
- 3 FREE home design service, we listen to you and design to your requirements
- 4 Large choice of design, 100s of doors, worktops, tiles, sinks and taps to choose from, but do not worry, we are here to help and advise what is right for you
- 5 We project manage from start to finish

- 6 We can supply only, or complete the whole project, including tiling, electrics, plumbing, building, plastering and even decorating
- 7 All rubbish removed at the end of the project
- 8 Gas Safe fitters (formerly Corgi)
- 9 NICEIC Registered electricians
- 10 Quality products at realistic prices

5 Hall Green Road, Stone Cross
West Bromwich, B71 3JS

Telephone: 0121 588 5737

See our virtual showroom at www.idealhomecare.co.uk

The home improvement specialists
IDEAL HOMECARE

Established over 21 years

| Open : 10.00 am - 4.00pm | Closed Wednesday & Sunday / CLOSED EASTER MONDAY & TUESDAY



SUMMERHILL
Bathrooms



www.summerhillbathrooms.co.uk

PURE
LUXURY

OPEN 7 DAYS

01384 263626

2-7 Bradley Street,
Pensnett, DY5 4RJ

Castle Aerials

DUDLEY

Over 10 years experience
Your Local Aerial Company You Can Trust!



LIMITED TIME OFFER
1 Aerial Into 2 Rooms ~~£249.99~~

Freesat Box & Dish £115 £99.99
Digital Aerials From £85 £64.99
1 Aerial Into 4 Rooms from £160 £135

(All installations include new aerial, new pole and new cable)

- Plasma TV Installations
- Aerial Upgrades
- Discounts for OAPs

We will beat any written quote!

All Work Guaranteed

Talk to us today for a free, no obligation quote on: **01384 350150**

A-Zee Fix

DOUBLE GLAZING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

Telephone: 01384 259761 Mobile: 07769 975841

- ♦ 70mm Internally Glazed High Security Frames
- ♦ 28mm Pilkington 'K' Units
- ♦ Document L Compliant
- ♦ Shoot Bolt Locking
- ♦ Sight Line Glazing
- ♦ Secured By Design PAS023 / PAS024



Repairs and Upgrades
Insurance Work
Failed Units
Broken Locks
Door Panels
Letter Boxes
Sticking Doors
Handles and Mechanisms

White
Light Oak
Rosewood
Woodgrain on White

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
PHONE TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTATION

FENSA
Registration No. 23529

B&D BLINDS

Vertical, Venetian, Awnings and Roller Blinds

- 12 Month Guarantee
- All made to measure - Supply and Fit
- Washable Blinds Available
- Friendly, Personal Service
- Full Range of Colours

0121 421 1000 • 07956 416016
153 CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY B68 0EL

ACHTUNG - PARTS FOR EVEN MORE GERMANS!

NOT ONLY VW-AUDI, BUT ALSO B.M.W., SEAT, SKODA & MERCEDES

CHECK OUR UNBEATABLE PRICES
UPTO 70% DISCOUNT

Quality, Service & Value Since 1975
P.W. EURO PARTS LTD.

TWO GATES LANE
HALESOWEN WEST MIDLANDS
TEL: 01384 567752 & 565300
www.pweuroparts.com



COMPETITION

Make your day with this Knight meeting

CALLING all knights! Westfield Merry Hill has an exciting offer for aspiring knights across the Midlands in search of their next adventure.

Popular CBeebies character Mike the Knight will be making his way to the centre to tell thrilling tales of his daring deeds, and five families will receive an exclusive meet and greet with their hero.

On top of that, each family will receive a £100 gift card for Merry Hill to have an Easter splurge on toys, eggs, or whatever else takes their fancy!

TV favourite Mike, a 10-year-old knight-in-training, is known to kids for his forays into an enchanting medieval world along with wizard-in-training sister Evie and trusted steed Galahad.

Activity

He'll be performing a special storytelling show for youngsters on Tuesday, April 9 at Fountain Square, where he'll captivate kids with sagas of his marvelous missions in a world of castles, dragons, Vikings and trolls.

Five lucky families (up to three children and two parents) will gain entrance to the show, and will afterwards have a personal chat with the star and a shopping splurge on the centre.

If readers miss out on Mike, other CBeebies favourites Yojojo and De Li On from Waybuloo will also be stopping by Westfield on Tuesday April 2.

Lots of other half-term activity will be taking place across the centre, from free cupcake bunny sessions in Eat Central to comic and superhero mask making classes, to the opening of Quest's Nerf combat zone and the UK's first Yu-kids soft play area.

More information can be found at <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill/>



Learn about the daring deeds of Mike The Knight

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to meet Mike and receive the £100 gift card, simply answer the following question:

What is the name of Mike the Knight's horse?

- Merlin
- Galahad
- Lancelot

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Knight Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 4. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Contact number needed



Westfield
Merry Hill

Did You Sleep Alright Last Night?

If not, buying a New Bed from

Dreamland's FABULOUS 3 DAY EASTER SALE...

Will be the BEST thing you have done for a good nights sleep
3 FLOORS OF FAMOUS NAMES GUARANTEED BEST PRICES

Open Friday 9am - 5.30pm Saturday 9am - 5.30pm Closed Sunday Bank Holiday Monday 10am - 5pm




FREE DRAWERS ON ALL THESE NEW MODELS INSTORE NOW

EVERYTHING RIGHT FROM ADVICE TO PRICE
Dreamland Superstore
23 Mill Street Brierley Hill **01384 74166**

PAY CASH, PAY LESS
WAKE UP & FEEL GOOD

OPEN:
Mon-Fri
9.00am-5.30pm
Sat 9.00am-5.30pm
Sun 11.00am-4.30pm



The Fourways

Bar Be Que Nation



- Award winning Chef
- Sandwell MBC 4 band food hygiene rating
- Family atmosphere and dining area
- Sport's channels on multi flat screen TV's

EAT IN OR TAKEAWAY SERVICE

*Open
7 Nights
a week*

The Four Ways

Bar Be Que Nation



**Open
Good Friday &
Bank Holiday
Monday**

Portway Hill,
Rowley Regis,
West Midlands B65 9DD

0121 559 4394

KITCHEN OPENING HOURS:

Mon to Thur 5.00 pm-10.30 pm
Fri to Sun 12.00 pm-11.00 pm



FLOORS-2-GO

THE WOOD FLOORING Expert



Download the official
FREE iPhone app

**1/2
UP TO
PRICE**

**STUNNING REALWOOD
& LAMINATE FLOORING**



HURRY ENDS MONDAY 8PM

SEE WEBSITE FOR STORE DETAILS

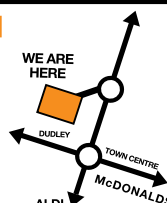
SHOP 24/7 www.floors2go.co.uk

ALSO AT SHELDON, ERDINGTON, NEWTOWN, CANNOCK

HALESOWEN 1

Unit 5-6
Mucklow Hill
Trading Estate,
Mucklow Hill,
Halesowen,
B62 8DF

Tel: 0121 504 3720



HALESOWEN 2

93 Dudley Road,
Halesowen,
Birmingham
B63 3NS

Tel: 0121 550 5221



NEWS

Apprentices for Premier

HOTEL chain Premier Inn is to take on 500 apprentices by the end of the year. Premier Inn, which has hotels across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, has created 1,100 jobs in the past year.

The hotel chain, part of the Whitbread group, announced plans to create the apprenticeships as it opened its 650th hotel in the UK and Ireland at Waterloo, London. Patrick Dempsey, managing director of Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, said: "Whitbread has a long history of helping young people further their careers."

Lottery over benefits

A POSTCODE lottery will greet benefit claimants next month under controversial changes to council tax.

Each local authority has had to bring in its own scheme to provide help with council tax bills after the Government stripped them of millions of pounds of support.

From next month, they will lose 10 per cent of the funding they had to provide council tax support.

But they will have to continue to fund help for pensioners, which means the cuts can only be passed on to working-age people, some of whom will face cuts of 20 per cent in their council tax benefit.

Some authorities are absorbing the

cuts for another year while others will be passing on some or all of the cut and will expect thousands of people to start contributing more towards services, such as bin collections, street lighting and libraries.

Councils in Dudley and Walsall are absorbing millions of pounds of cuts and will keep paying the same rates of council tax benefit.

In Sandwell, claimants will have to have lived in the borough for two years before being eligible for support with council tax bills in a bid to prevent benefit tourism.

It comes as 20,000 working age people in Wolverhampton will have to start paying an average of £73 a year towards their council tax bills from next month. The city council is expect-

ing people to pay 8.5 per cent of their council tax bills, although funding has been reduced by much more.

In South Staffordshire people face a 20 per cent cut in council tax benefit. And help will be capped at Band D. Anyone in a Band E property or above will pay the difference.

The amounts people will pay will vary based on circumstances. For example, a working single mother of two, both aged over five and living in a Band F home would be expected to pay £29.37 a week in council tax.

A single disabled person in a housing association property would continue to be exempt from paying council tax.

But in Sandwell, bosses have decided to continue to foot the bill for 18,000 people, despite losing £3.2m in grants.

Jasper promises night of nostalgia with show

HE might be one of the country's most famous Brummies - but comedian Jasper Carrott says there will be lots of musical nostalgia for audiences in the Black Country in his latest show.

Made in Brum will see him join forces with some of the area's most recognised music names as they tell the story of how rock 'n' roll developed and bought many of the region's bands success through playing at iconic venues such as Wolverhampton Civic Hall thanks to their devoted fans.

The tour - which starts at Dudley Town Hall on April 11 - is led by the comic delivering a nostalgic look at the faces, places and music of Birmingham's Brum Beat scene.

He is accompanied by the musicians and singers behind that sound playing hits from

the 60s and beyond including former ELO drummer Bev Bevan, Trevor Burton, of The Move, and Geoff Turton, of the Rockin' Berries. Singers Joy Strachan-Brain, of Quill, and 50s and 60s star Danny King will be taking part with The Bev Bevan Band.

Jasper said he has fond memories of playing stand-up gigs in the Black Country, including performing at JB's nightclub in Dudley as he started out on the comedy circuit. "I played at JB's a few times when I was just starting out. It was a terrific place, really enjoyed my gigs there," he said.

"Dudley Town Hall will be special on the opening night as the first date of the tour is often the best as everyone is high on adrenaline and really looking forward to the gig."

School celebrates outstanding rating



Celebrating Ocker Hill Junior School's outstanding Ofsted are Jessica Walters, Anjali Bhatti, Kefe Ononeme, assistant head Mark Goodwin, and Joe Bradley

A BLACK Country school has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted inspectors. Ocker Hill Junior School, Tipton, was given the rating after a visit in February.

Inspectors said the progress of pupils over time is much better than seen nationally. The Gospel Oak Road school, inspected on February 12 to 13, had been judged as satisfactory on its last inspection in 2011.

A report now says achievement is outstanding and pupils are very well prepared for secondary school, making excellent progress in reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers were described as outstanding.

The governing body was also said to provide outstanding challenge and support and makes sure that the school meets all legal requirements.

Inspectors said to improve further the school should provide a regular summary of pupils' progress in each subject so that staff and governors have an up-to-date view of achievement across the school.

Lead inspector Gerald Griffin said: "Teachers plan challenging activities that closely match the needs of all groups in the class and, as a result, pupils work extremely hard and complete the challenging tasks they are set."

On head Adam Hollyhead he added: "The headteacher demonstrates an uncompromising and highly successful drive for excellence." Mr Hollyhead said: "This is a wonderful achievement and reflects many years of hard work."

"We have tremendous staff and pupils who produce work of the highest order on a daily basis."

Interpreters boycott police and court work

FOUR in five professional interpreters are refusing to join an under-fire private company translating for West Midlands Police and in the region's courts.

The boycott by 81 per cent of professional interpreters is of Capita Translating and Interpreting and was revealed in a survey commissioned by the Professional Interpreters for Justice.

Since November 2011 West Midlands Police has used translators supplied under a Ministry of Justice contract covering courts in England and Wales, which originally used workers supplied from Applied Language Solutions (ALS). Capita took on the work last year after buying out ALS.

Maureen Lee, of the Professional Interpreters Alliance, one of 10 organisations in Professional Interpreters for Justice, said: "The majority are not willing to work for Capita. It's very clear that after one year it's not simply a matter of pay, it's a matter of principles, standards and quality."

MASSIVE SAVINGS

Throughout the Store!!

Over 100 suites always in stock

Many for immediate delivery



Vast range of beds available from budget to luxury

FREE Local Delivery
FREE Disposal of your old furniture
FREE Disposal of all packaging
FREE Set up of all beds*



FREE
Local Delivery
within 10 miles

Discount Furniture Outlet

Call Today 01384 402522

Unit 2-6, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7BG

www.thediscountfurnitureoutlet.co.uk thediscountfurnitureoutlet@gmail.com

*On beds over £500

FREE
DISPOSAL OF
OLD FURNITURE

**1st Come
1st Served**

Opening Times: Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm

MASSIVE SAVINGS THROUGHOUT THE STORE!

Stonecraft Paving Centre

Open Bank Holiday Monday 9am-3pm



OUR AIM IS NOT TO BE BEATEN ON PRICE!

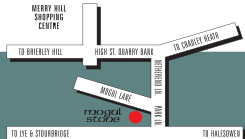
Indoor and outdoor Displays

NEW WATER FEATURES AND PONDS

- Decorative & Utility Slabs • Block Paving • Rumbled Paving
- Decorative Walling • Decorative Aggregates • Bricks • Blocks
- Copings • Bagged Sand and Gravel • Huge Range of Fencing
- Natural Stone • Sheds • Concrete • Ready Mix Concrete.
- Trade and Retail • Delivery all over West Midlands
- Open 6 Days a Week

Formerly **mogul Stone** -

Mogul Lane, Cradley, Halesowen
West Midlands, B63 2NX
Telephone: 01384 636564



Midland UPVC



**SAVE POUNDS ON YOUR FUEL BILLS
WITH OUR ENERGY RATED WINDOWS**



**MARCH SALE 6 FLAT
WINDOWS ANY SIZE**

£1450
fitted

Buy Direct from your local manufacturer

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

Visit our website:

www.midlandupvc.co.uk

No hidden extras very competitive price

- Free Design service
- 10 yr Insurance back guarantee
- Secured by design Quality Products
- Energy saving Windows & Doors
- All built and installed by our own fitters

Fantastic new Door Range



SPECIAL OFFER
PVC Door
From

£375
Fitted

As seen on the
BBC DIY SOS



Also Special Offers on Conservatories



ALL AREAS COVERED **01384 234170**
After 5pm **01384 429152**

sales@midlandupvc.co.uk
OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Saltwells Inn

good food at great prices!

EASTER SUNDAY MENU

Classic Prawn Cocktail
Pate and Rustic Bread
Homemade Vegetable Soup

Roast Beef
Roast Turkey

Lemon and Raspberry Sorbet
Deep dish Apple Pie
Toffee Cheesecake

**THREE
COURSES**
£9.95

**DON'T FORGET US DURING
THE KID'S HOLIDAYS!**

Families always welcome

2 outside play areas

PLUS A KID'S PLAYROOM

HUGE BEER GARDEN

CARVERY
available lunch times
Monday to Friday 12pm - 3pm, Saturday 12pm - 5pm
£3.99

*** 25% Off**
your main meals with this voucher
Valid until 5th April 2013 Families always welcome
*Offer excludes carvery

GREAT EARLYBIRD SAVING

Mon - Fri 3 - 7pm &
Sat 12 - 5pm

MONDAY

Pie & Pud Night 5pm to 9pm
Only **£5.95**

TUESDAY

Steak Night after 5pm

FRIDAY

Curry Night
with every homemade
curry ordered
receive a **FREE pint****

SUNDAY

Sunday Lunch
2 courses Only **£5.25**



Find us on
Facebook

Saltwells Lane, Dudley DY51AX

01384 569224

www.saltwellsinn.co.uk

*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.
Not available Bank Holidays. **Pint of Carlsberg, Tetleys, small Wine or draught pop

Marie Curie Nurses

- The charity is best known for its network of 2,000 Marie Curie Nurses working in the community to provide end-of-life care, totally free for patients in their own homes.
- Last year we cared for more than 31,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in our nine hospices.
- There is a Marie Curie Nursing Service available to 96 per cent* of the UK.
- We mainly care for people with cancer but we also care for people with other life-limiting illnesses such as dementia, Motor Neurone Disease and heart failure.
- While four in five (79 per cent)¹ of the UK population are aware of Marie Curie Cancer Care, a survey² commissioned by the charity last year revealed the same percentage doesn't know if there is a Marie Curie Nursing Service available to them locally.
- Few also know how to access the service - just under half (48 percent) responded "don't know" when asked how they would go about getting a Marie Curie Nurse.
- To access a Marie Curie Nurse, patients and/or their carers should speak to their GP or District Nurse.

For more information or to make a donation visit
www.mariecurie.org.uk

Marie Curie Hospices

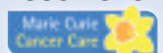
- Marie Curie has nine hospices
- It is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS
- Marie Curie Hospices provide care for patients with cancer and other illnesses and provide support for families and carers, all completely free of charge.



Crossways Motor Bodies

*Motor bodywork specialists
 *Insurance approved
 *Free local pick up & delivery

Free estimate call
0121 559 4040



Any Carpet Anywhere

129 Coombs Road,
 Halesowen,
 B62 8AG

0121 561 4607



Don Guest & Son

Quality Award
 Winning
 Family Butchers

106A Stourbridge Road,
 Halesowen

0121 550 3832



LMS Garage Doors

All types of
 doors supplied &
 fitted.
 Fast low cost,
 same day repairs

Call

07592 118707



A B Plastering

Over 30 years
 experience

Call
01384 622466,
07971 569648



Golden Cue Snooker Club

16 Snooker Tables.
 Cask Ales

Station Road,
 Blackheath

0121 561 2271



Carlton Care

* Long Term
 care
 * Holiday
 short term
 respite care

0121 550 1312



Sarah's Rose Garden

6 College Road,
 Quinton, B32 1AB

0121 423 3593

www.sarahsrosegarden.co.uk

Fresh cut flowers and
 stockists of
 Yankee candles



Michael's Supermarkets

Long Lane,
 Rowley Regis

0121 559 2034

Happy to support
 the work of
 Marie Curie



Harrisons Painting & Decorating

Domestic &
 Commercial
 Work Undertaken

Call
07792 865975

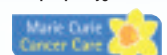


Pets Pantry & Garden Centre

Pigeon Supplies
 Victoria Road,
 Halesowen

0121 561 5470

www.petspantrygarden.co.uk



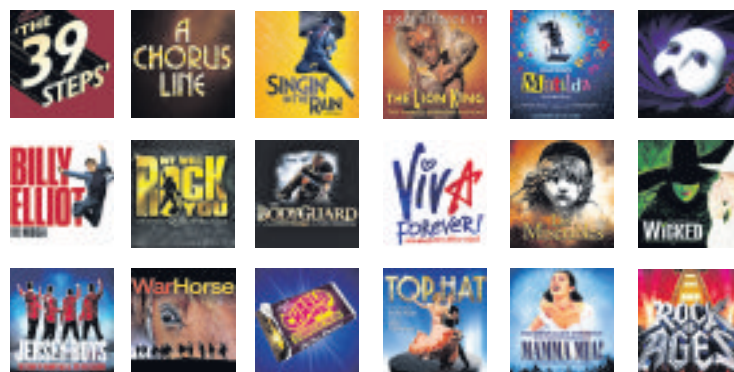
Blossoms Florists Wedding Specialists

Flowers to suit
 all budgets
 199 Stourbridge
 Road,
 Halesowen

0121 602 7524



star★extraTRAVEL



LONDON THEATRE BREAKS

**Choose your show, price band*
 and how you want to travel**

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
 Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

**For a theatre brochure please call
 (01902) 319999
 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),
 or go to
expressandstar.com/starextratravel**

Please read brochure/web page for full information
 plus terms and conditions

What's On! Halesowen

Voice of an angel in excellent show

Phantom of the Opera, B-ham Hippodrome
ANGEL of Music she certainly is. Katie Hall, as Christine, in this stunning performance of Phantom of the Opera just stole the show.

Her performance was mesmerising, showing not only does she have a superb voice she can also act.

Birmingham Hippodrome was packed, and not surprisingly, once word gets out of how good this is there is likely to be a scramble for tickets. It runs until May 4 so book up, this is definitely one not to miss.

Performances from Earl Carpenter as the Phantom and Carlotta, the ousted star, were excellent.

Amusing

There were some amusing interludes as the Phantom sent notes to various cast members and high drama as the huge chandelier started to "drop" above the audience but the real highlight was the spectacular voice and passion shown by Kate which literally made the spine tingle.

The story, which by now must be well known, is of Erik, who is a musical genius but whose face is horribly disfigured and hides from the world in the dungeons of the Paris Opera House.

He falls in love with a young singer, Christine and starts to coach her to become a perfect singer.

And he certainly did a very good job.

Sue Attwater

Northern soul Lisa is on her way for a comeback

SHE'S been all around the world but now Lancashire soul queen Lisa Stansfield is on her way back to the UK's concert halls.

The Rochdale girl who lit up the early '90s with her distinctive kiss curl, soulful vocals and mega-hit All Around The World, will be reconnecting with her Midlands fans at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday, June 16.

That comes the day after what is set to be a triumphant homecoming at Salford's Lowry Theatre.

The double Brit Award-winner, who sold 20 million albums and topped the charts in 12 countries, is putting the finishing touches to her seventh album, following a handful of acclaimed low-key gigs last year.

She is also due to have a starring role alongside Steve Coogan in a new British movie this year, Northern Soul. It's about the 1970s dance music scene that was hugely popular in the North and Midlands.

Break

For the past seven years Lisa has had a break from the music scene but the 46-year-old is now keeping true to her word in hit song Someday (I'm Coming Back).

She's not the only female hit-maker back on the road. Former Yazoo star Alison Moyet returns with album The Minutes in May and a Symphony Hall concert on October 28.



Concert - Lisa Stansfield



Michael Ball had a hit in 1989 with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Changes Everything

A perfect song for Michael

WEST End star and popular crooner Michael Ball will be performing a new song written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Leslie Bricusse when he appears in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday, April 27.

The Perfect Song is the first collaboration between the songwriting giants. Lloyd Webber has written many of the most successful musicals of the past four decades. Bricusse's classics include The Candy Man, Goldfinger and What Kind Of Fool Am I?

The new song features on Michael Ball's latest album Both Sides Now and has been released as a single. Also featured is Fight The Fight, from Tim Rice and Stuart Branson's forthcoming musical From Here To Eternity.

Scottish rockers turn out topless

Biffy Clyro,

LG Arena, Birmingham
ONLY Revolutions may have been Biffy Clyro's fifth studio album, but it propelled them into the spotlight - and since then the wheel of fortune has continued to turn for the Scottish rockers.

And, they proved Opposites attract as their new tour, taken from the name of album number six, drew the crowds to the second city.

There was the warning that the trio may go topless - and they duly did throughout the whole set, from the opening Different People to the finale of Mountains, with that Matt Cardle classic thrown in between, along with some older material.

There's been debate over the name, and they claim to be uncool, but there's no doubt they put on a rocking show. In just the second performance of what is their biggest arena tour to date, the likes of Bubbles and Who's Got a Match? had the whole crowd bouncing, while lead vocalist Simon Neil threw in solos including Machines and God and Satan for good measure.

Mark Shipp

Toyah's hormones

FORMER punk pop queen Toyah returns to her native West Midlands as a comic actress. She takes the lead role in Hormonal Housewives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on April 2 and 3.

NEW FOR 2013

WEST MIDLAND
SAFARI
& LEISURE
PARK

THE UNMISSABLE ALL-NEW LION RESERVE

SPRING GROVE, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE, DY12 1LF
TEL: 01299 402114
WWW.WMSP.CO.UK

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 30.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Jenna-Louise Coleman

Doctor Who BBC1, 6.15pm
If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a big year. November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it. But we have eight months to wait until we see the fruits of their labours. Until then, we'll have to make do with the second half of season seven, which will see Jenna-Louise Coleman reprise her role as Clara, who turns up this time in modern-day London to help the Doctor defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Richard Hammond's Secret Service. 2.40 Film: Freaky Friday. (2009) 4.10 Final Score. 5.10 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.55 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 6.15 Doctor Who. The Time Lord returns for eight new adventures, the first of which sees him joining new companion Clara to tackle a wi-fi menace in London. Matt Smith and Jenna-Louise Coleman star.
7.00 The Voice UK. New series. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates return with the all-singing, chair-spinning talent contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue.
8.35 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
9.25 Casualty. Tom helps a young man with a troubled home life, while Jamie treats a junior boxer who reminds him of his difficult past. Tom becomes jealous when another doctor asks Sam out.
10.15 BBC News. Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Sunderland v Manchester United. National Lottery Update.
12.05 The Football League Show. 2.25 Film: (BST) The Uninvited. (2009) 3.50 Weatherview. 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two. 7.00 Great British Menu. (R) 8.00 Great British Menu. (R) 9.00 Great British Menu. (R) 10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) 11.00 Meet the Ancestors. (R) 11.30 Map Man. (R) 12.00 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 12.30 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 1.30 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 2.00 Country Show Cook Off. (R) 2.30 Mastermind. (R) 3.00 University Challenge. (R) 3.30 Flog It! (R) 4.15 The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass. (R) 5.15 Easter from King's. A service from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.
6.30 The Good Life. Margo's new windbreak causes problems for Tom and Barbara. (R)
7.00 Richard Briers: A Tribute. Friends and colleagues celebrate the life of the actor, who died last month and whose 50-year career encompassed TV, stage, film and radio. Ever Decreasing Circles and the documentary All About The Good Life can be seen tomorrow from 6.30pm.
8.00 Bach: A Passionate Life. John Eliot Gardiner examines the life of the German composer, discovering he was a complex artist, a warm and convivial family man and a rebellious spirit.
9.30 QI. With Julia Zemerio, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble. (R)
10.00 It's the Top Secret Special. One-off edition of the spoof documentary, starring Warwick Davis.
11.00 Film: Anita & Me. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Chandeep Uppal.
12.30 Film: Brooklyn Rules. (2007) 3.00 (BST) This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Canimals. (R) 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Victorious. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.25 My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) 11.25 Dinner Date. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.40 Countrywise. (R) 12.55 Film: March of the Penguins. (2005) 2.20 The Chase. 3.20 Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) 5.30 Regional Programme. Weather. 5.45 ITV News: Weather. 6.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders and mobile phones, featuring a quad bike with a mind of its own and Peter Pan taking a tumble. (R)
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Geordie duo recruit Simon Cowell to play an undercover prank on Piers Morgan, and Michael Subile performs at the end of the show.
8.20 The Cube. A legal secretary from Essex and a young Welsh father try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With James Nesbitt and Depeche Mode.
10.20 ITV News: Weather. 10.35 Film: 300. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Gerard Butler.
12.40 Jackpot247. 4.00 (BST) Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 British Rallycross. 7.25 The Grid. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.50 Frasier. (R) 10.20 Frasier. (R) 10.50 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.45 The Simpsons. (R) 12.15 The Simpsons. (R) 12.45 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 1.45 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. 4.25 Come Dine with Me. 4.55 Come Dine with Me. 5.20 Come Dine with Me. 5.50 Channel 4 Racing: The Dubai World Cup. 6.35 Channel 4 News. 6.55 Easter Eggs Live. Mark Evans presents a week of live programmes following the hatchlings of a variety of creatures.
7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Three people in Wandsworth, south London, who are eager to attract buyers for their flats, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas.
8.00 Walking Through History. New series. Tony Robinson embarks on expeditions through some of Britain's most historic landscapes, starting with a 40-mile walk along the Derwent Valley in the Peak District.
9.00 Labyrinth. A modern-day PhD graduate and a 17-year-old from the 13th century experience an adventure that intertwines their lives. Concludes tomorrow.
11.05 Big Fat Quiz of the 80s. Jimmy Carr grills five celebrities on the 1980s. (R)
12.40 Film: Happy, Happy. (2010) 3.10 (BST) Hollyoaks. 5.15 Countdown. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.45 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.10 Inside Hollywood. 11.15 The Gadget Show: Future Special. (R) 12.15 Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven. (R) 1.15 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 2.15 Film: The Big Country. (1958) 5.30 Film: Guns of the Magnificent Seven. (1969) 7.25 5 News Weekend. 7.30 CSI: NY. Stella, Flack and Lindsay suspect a joke-shop owner known as Laughing Larry was somehow complicit in the death of an extravagant internet entrepreneur killed by an exploding cigar. (R)
8.15 NCIS. Part two of two. Agent Callen goes undercover. Tony questions Ziva's loyalty to the team, and a psychologist uncovers the truth about the relationship between Gibbs and Agent Macy. (R)
9.15 NCIS. The team works alongside the FBI to catch the killer of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who was murdered during a poker game at the Secretary of the Navy's house. (R)
10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A mutilated corpse is found in a park.
11.10 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. The team is faced with a lengthy list of potential suspects while investigating the murder of a magazine editor known for his abrasive personality.
12.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 (BST) Nick's Quest. (R) 4.25 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hansa's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D 7.15 Dragons: Gift of the Night Fury 7.35 Shrek: Once Upon a Time 8.35 Film: Shrek the Third (2007) 10.00 Live at the Apollo 11.05 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 The Kimbolton Cabinet 7.30 The Art of the Vikings: Secret Knowledge 8.00 Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork 9.00 Classic Albums 9.50 Film: The Secret in Their Eyes (2009)
ITV2
4.10 Film: Back to the Future (1985) **6.30 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **8.20 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **10.20** Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special **11.05** Plebs **ITV3**
2.35 Film: On the Buses (1971) **4.25 Film:** Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **6.10 Film:** Holiday on the Buses (1973) **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** A Touch of Frost **ITV4**
1.20 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **4.30 Film:** The Way West (1967) **7.00** TT Legends Review **8.00** River Monsters **8.00 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **E4**
3.05 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **5.00** Youngers **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Rules of Engagement **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Stroke Girls **9.00** 50 Greatest Plastic Surgery Shockers **11.15** Big Bang Theory **Film4**
3.05 The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.55** My Neighbour Totoro (1989) **6.45** Entrapment (1999) **9.00** G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **11.15** The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2009)

Last chance for 20% off!

Hurry - offer ends Sunday 14 April 2013!

There's still time to save 20% on Bonmarché's fabulous new springtime collection. Simply present your voucher in-store when you spend £20 or more on gorgeous clothes designed to fit and flatter.

Bonmarché

265 stores nationwide • Call 0845 202 4490 • Visit bonmarche.co.uk

Save 20%
when you spend £20 or more

Bonmarché

Valid until 14 April 2013. Simply present this voucher in any UK Bonmarché store to claim your discount (excludes telephone & online orders). Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount voucher or Bonmarché offer, or against the purchase of gift vouchers. Damaged, defaced or photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. One voucher per transaction. Cash redemption value 0.001p. Discount code: **COLSTING05**

The Knights Quest

High Street, Blackheath 0121 561 5599

Public House & Entertainment Venue • Carvery & Grill

Great Bar • Great Food • Great Entertainment!

MARCH

Friday 29th

BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE

Saturday 30th

CLUB BERLIN

Sunday 31st

STARMAKERS SUNDAY
KARAOKE PARTY NIGHT !!!

APRIL

Monday 1st

SHANES FULL
KARAOKE SHOW !!!

Tuesday 2nd

ITS KARAOKE WITH
PREDATOR

Wednesday 3rd

BENCHYS BIG NIGHT OUT !!!

Thursday 4th

STARMAKERS
KARAOKE NIGHT !!!

Sunday Carvery £4.95 12 noon-5 pm



CARVERY TIMES

Mon-Thurs
12.00-2.30 pm, 6-8 pm
Fri-Sat 12.00-2.30 pmOnly
£3.45GREAT STEAK & GRILL DEALS
NEW MENUFeaturing Grills and Succulent Steaks
Available 7 days a week

We serve until 1am on Sundays, Midnight Monday-Wednesday, 1am Thursday, 2am Friday & Saturday DOORS CLOSE 11.00 pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun • Strictly Smart Casual • No Hats or Sportswear

Find us at www.theknightsquest.co.uk

Jazz Cuddle Sofa Contemporary Style
available in 5 vibrant colours
Was £999 NOW £659

Hunter 2 Door Solid Oak Sideboard
Was £599 NOW £249

Rimini Dining Set
A combination of Black Glass and chrome with 4 complementing chairs
Was £499 NOW £349

Balmoral Luxury 5'0" Memory Foam Pocket Spring
Superior Comfort at an affordable price
Was £599 NOW £389

Kirstie 3+2
up to the minute style in a wide range of fabulous fabrics
NOW £699

President Plus Orthopaedic 4'6" Divan
With Cool plus cover
Savings Over 50%
Was £349 NOW £169

Florence - Charisma Traditional Italian Design
3+1+1 Available in a large choice of leather colours and complimentary polished wood
SAVE £500 on this:-
Was £2499 NOW £1999

Miami 2 Door Double Robe Matt Wood Grain Finish
Fully Assembled Mounted on Castors
Only £139

Mattress Madness Everest 4'6" Non-Turn Memory Foam with Multi-Zone Cells
to give correct support, soft touch fabric
£129

the furniture warehouse

- ✓ Free parking
- ✓ Free local delivery
- ✓ Established over 25 years
- ✓ Ex-display and manufacturer development models available
- ✓ 1000s of options available on made-to-order furniture
- ✓ Open 7 days
- ✓ Over 150 suites in stock

OUR NAME MEANS A GREAT DEAL!

EASTER OPENING TIMES
Good Friday 10.00 - 5.00pm
Saturday 10.00 - 5.30pm
Easter Sunday Closed
Bank Holiday Monday 10am - 5pm
Tuesday 10.00am - 6pm
Wednesday 10.00am - 6pm
Thursday 10.00am - 6pm

BOOKING FOR EASTER

What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

A Bunch of Amateurs, BBC2, 10pm

A washed-up Hollywood star is delighted when his agent arranges for him to play King Lear, only to be horrified to learn he has been signed up for an English amateur dramatics group's charity production. Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Samantha Bond. (2008)

Executive Decision, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists armed with the world's most lethal nerve gas take over an airliner and demand a massive ransom – and only a crack team of intelligence experts can stop them before they carry out their threat to destroy Washington, DC. Action thriller, starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, Halle Berry and John Leguizamo. (1996)

TUESDAY

Polltergeist, BBC1, 12.20am

A family experiences strange events after invisible phantoms invade their home. At first the ghosts seem harmless, simply making things move by themselves. But before long, they spirit away the five-year-old daughter to their own plane of existence, forcing her parents to call on paranormal researchers to find their missing child. Horror, with JoBeth Williams. (1982)



Insomnia, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Insomnia, BBC1, 11.05pm

A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

THURSDAY

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, BBC1, 11.30pm

An eccentric marine expert sets out in search of a legendary shark that ate his old friend and shipmate. Unfortunately the voyage is riddled with problems, including a man claiming to be his long-lost son, a pursuing pirate crew and a rival oceanographer. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. (2004)

FRIDAY

King Kong, ITV, 10.35pm

A maverick film-maker and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (2005)

Pick of the Week

No cause for celebration for the returning Doctor

If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a very big year indeed.

November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the science fiction show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it.

In the past, such events have been marked by special editions featuring previous actors to have played the Doctor, but show-runner Steven Moffat is giving away as little information this time around as he can get away with.

Instead, he explains it's in 3D (which we already knew anyway) and is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Frankly, if he'd said anything but that, we'd think he'd lost his marbles – OF COURSE it's going to be amazing. But no matter how much we beg, Moffat won't budge: what he will talk about (a bit anyway) are the new episodes heading our way.

We're about to see the second half of season seven, which began last autumn when Amy and Rory were still aboard the Tardis; seems a long time ago, doesn't it?

They're now gone and the Doctor has been moping about the universe, although he did stop off in Victorian London to meet Clara, a fast-talking quick-witted young woman who seemed to die at the end of the Christmas special. But did she?

Apparently not, because here she is, large as life again and living in modern-day London.

In this week's episode, she helps the Time Lord defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion, but she isn't so sure. Obviously he twists her arm because she's played by Jenna-Louise Colman, who we've already been told will be a regular in the series.

Moffat was instrumental in casting Colman, and he's pleased he did. "I think she fits in perfectly, brings a whole new side to Matt to the fore, and she's sort of charming, flirtatious, lovely, and is discovering all those things about Doctor Who for the first time that we all know and making them therefore brand new."

"She's also, I think, a genuine star."

But what else can we expect to see over the coming weeks?

"We've got returning monsters, we've got the Warriors and the Cybermen coming and some zombies creatures as well," says Moffat. "We've got all of that and we've got a huge range of settings - we've got under the sea, we've got a fantastic alien planet, an adventure actually on the rings of the planet."

"We've got Victorian Yorkshire, which I think everyone wants to see. And the Doctor's biggest secret, revealed for real. We're not kidding, we are actually going to do it, we're going to reveal his biggest secret."

Hmmm...at last, a revelation of sorts – can't wait for that. But what can it be? The Doctor's real name? What happened to his long-lost granddaughter Susan, abandoned in London in 2150AD?

Knowing Moffat, it's all just a tease. But we'll be gripped, like the rest of the nation, desperate to find out what happens next in the Doctor's amazing adventures in space and time...



Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.15pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Coronation Street ITV, 7.30pm

We used to have Karl pegged as a feckless wanderer – not a man you'd want to rely on, but not actively dangerous. However, by setting fire to The Rovers and leaving Sunita to die there, he's moved up into the soap villain division. To make matters worse, Stella is still under the impression he's actually a hero as he's discharged from hospital, and insists he's welcome to stay at Number 13 with her. And with the doctor warning Dev that they might have to switch off Sunita's life-support machine, it looks like no one is going to be able to expose Karl for the deluded arsonist he is.

Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb' BBC1, 8.30pm

Before Jonathan Creek came along, most people thought Alan Davies was just another young comedian. But thanks to his performance in David Renwick's hit series about a crime-solving magician's creative consultant, that all changed. Creek became hugely popular, and fans are always desperate for a new run. One isn't forthcoming, so they'll have to make do with this new one-off – and mighty fine it is too. Subtitled The Clue of the Savant's Thumb, it reveals what happens when Creek and fellow investigator Joey Ross become involved in a complex case at a girls' boarding school involving a secret society and what appears to be supernatural events. Sheridan Smith returns as Joey, while Rik Mayall, Joanna Lumley and Nigel Planer guest star.

TUESDAY

The Great British Sewing Bee BBC2, 8pm

Whether it's the current economic climate encouraging us to make do and mend, the vogue for all things vintage, or the fact that you can do it while watching the telly, sewing has been making something of a comeback. In fact, it's so popular, the brains behind the Great British Bake-Off have decided to base a new series around it. Presented by Claudia Winkleman, it sees eight needlepersons competing to be named Britain's best amateur sewer. In the Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood roles will be May Martin from the WI and Savile Row tailor Patrick Grant – expect 'puckering seam lines' to become the new soggy bottoms.

WEDNESDAY

Hillsborough: Never Forgotten BBC2, 9pm

Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough Stadium will always be known as the place at which 94 Liverpool supporters died on April 15, 1989, while attending an FA Cup semi-final match between their team and Nottingham Forest – two more fans died later. This documentary is being broadcast to mark the first anniversary of the Hillsborough Disaster since the Hillsborough Independent Review published its findings. It's a poignant and thought-provoking film in which survivors, relatives of the

deceased and those who tended to the victims on the day describe how, for over 20 years, they or their loved ones were blamed for what happened until the Bishop of Liverpool, leader of the team that uncovered the truth, revealed what really happened.

Scott & Bailey ITV, 9pm

The north west's answer to Cagney and Lacey have returned for a new series that once again finds them juggling their complicated personal lives with their demanding jobs. However, some viewers may initially find it slightly difficult to sympathise with DC Rachel Bailey (Suranne Jones) who in the months since we last saw her has married

handsome fellow copper Sean (Sean Maguire). He's devoted to her, mood swings and all – so why is Rachel already feeling like she's made a huge mistake? At least DC Janet Scott (Lesley Sharp) is going to get a big distraction from her complicated love life.

THURSDAY

The Intern Channel 4, 9pm

Ex-Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey hosts this new series in which talented and ambitious

candidates are given a leg up the ladder in their chosen career by giving them the chance to win an internship with some of the UK's most exciting employers. Despite being hungry for success, the candidates do not have the qualifications the companies involved would usually look for so, instead, they will be confronted by a series of challenges to find out how they cope in a certain environment. First up, three young people attempt to impress a hotel group by dealing with a celebrity caught in a compromising position.

FRIDAY

How to Win the Grand National Channel 4, 8pm

For some people, Grand National weekend is the only time of year they set foot in the bookies. However, the reality is that not just any old nag can conquer those four-and-a-half miles and 30 fences. To even take part requires dedication and bravery, and to be first past the post – well, that takes a little something extra. Mark Evans sets out to find out just what qualities make up a winner.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Karren Brady ITV, 9pm

For people outside football, Karren Brady is probably best known for her appearances on The Apprentice. However, if that's all you know of her, this programme, the final episode of the series, is going to be an education. It charts Brady's spells as managing director of Birmingham City FC and as vice-chairman of West Ham United, as well as her TV career, marriage, motherhood and the time she was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm.



Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb', Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

14 Hagley Road, Halesowen (town centre)
0121 550 9800
DOMESTICS
of Halesowen
SALES • SPARES • REPAIRS

Fridge Freezers From £149	Washing Machines From £119	Dishwashers From £199 (For Illustration Purposes Only)

- Larders From **£89**
 - Freezers From **£99**
 - Large Selection of Vacuums From **£39**
 - Cookers From **£139**
 - Dryers From **£99**
 - Spinners From **£99**
- Open Monday - Thursday 8 am - 4.30 pm. Friday - Saturday 9 am - 4 pm

We also repair • Washers • Cookers • Refrigeration
All Items Carry A 12 Month Full Guarantee
Plus More Electrical Goods In Stock

THE WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR RAILWAY

EASTER BOGSTRAVAGANZA!
 A FREE EGG FOR EVERY CHILD TRAVELLING OVER EASTER
 (Egg offer ends Easter Monday)

Daily services until Sunday 14th April
 (No service on 5th, 8th & 12th April)
 Trains leave Welshpool at 11.15 & 14.15
 Additional trains at 12.45 & 15.45
 Sat 30th March - Mon 1st April

DISCOUNTS FOR ONLINE BOOKING
INFORMATION - 01938 810441
ONLINE BOOKING - www.wlrr.org.uk



Stuart & Neil Hodgkins

WATCH REPAIRERS,
 JEWELLERS & ENGRAVERS
 151 HIGH STREET,
 BLACKHEATH B65 0EA
 (Next to the new library)
TELEPHONE:
0121 559 7156

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY FRIDAY AND MONDAY

FREE FITTING
 MUST END
 EASTER MONDAY*

£899 fitted

Best of British Package Deals from £499

flames
 of Dudley Ltd
 The Fireplace Warehouse

Mon-Fri 10-5
 Sat 10-4
 Sunday Closed

Unit 6A, Thornleigh Trading Estate, Farthings Lane,
 Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 8UB.
 Telephone: 01384 235 497

*See in store for details

safe
 REGISTER

NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE POWER OF SMALL

Classified adverts might be small, but they pack a big punch. For as little as £26 per week, you can promote your business to the largest audience in the Midlands. That's a staggering 652,000 local people each week. Give us a call - we think you'll be knocked out by the impact.

classified
 There's nothing like it for buying and selling.

01902 317878
 Express & Star
 The Chronicle
 www.expressandstar.com

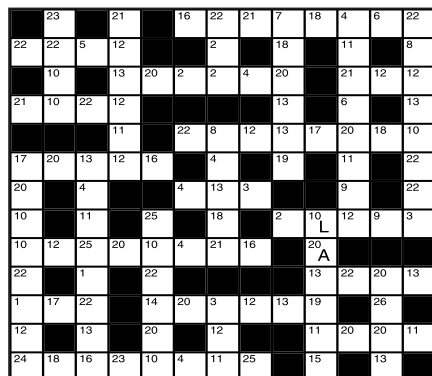
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.214

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	H	X	D	B	Z	N	Q	M	V	P	I	A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	K	L	C	G	F	W	R	S	U	O	T	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

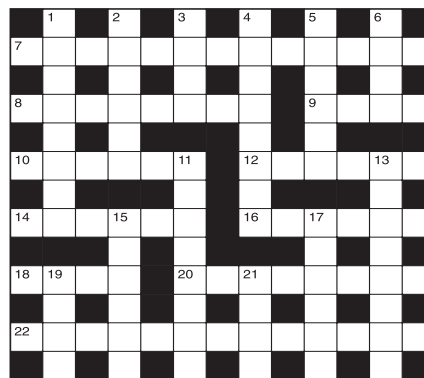
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Practise putting on a glove? (3,4,4,2)
8. Such lovers may make maids err! (8)
9. Water thoroughly (4)
10. Sailor despatched and not here (6)
12. Emphasise, in a manner of speaking (6)
14. An occasion when spirits are called for (6)
16. I am after it in brown or reddish-yellow (6)
18. Country in which hope runs high (4)
20. Goes without saying (8)
22. He digs into the past (13)

Down

1. A bleared version probably isn't (8)
2. God that is around for curing purposes (6)
3. Grant out of misplaced enthusiasm (4)
4. All those required for a full board meeting (5,3)
5. Result of a questionable action? (6)
6. What every shopkeeper needs to cultivate? (4)
11. He hasn't yet made a score (8)
13. Hit and run in off-hand fashion (4-4)
15. Round figure? (6)
17. A depressing feature for meteorologists (6)
19. Clearly it includes him! (4)
21. Just one fish (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Exaggeration (13)
8. Sham (8)
9. Relieve (4)
10. Afternoon nap (6)
12. Avaricious (6)
14. Babe (6)
16. Modest (6)
18. Conspire (4)
20. Sail a ship (8)
22. Thought (13)

Down

1. Dislike (8)
2. Free (6)
3. Daze (4)
4. Power (8)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Burden (4)
11. Self-government (8)
13. Swelling (8)
15. Shrewd (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Plunder (4)
21. Wicked (4)

Sudoku

1	5	8	7	6
9	6	7	1	3
7	5	2	9	3
3	2	8	3	9
2	6	9	5	8
6	4	5	3	7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	8	1	7	3	2	9	4
1	4	9	8	3	2	6	5	7
2	7	9	6	5	4	8	1	3
3	9	6	7	1	8	4	5	2
4	8	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
7	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	9
8	2	5	3	6	7	9	4	1
9	3	7	5	4	1	6	2	8
6	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Epee; 8 Cradle song; 9 Schooner; 10 Arcs; 12 Scotch; 14 Mishap; 15 Colour; 17 Benign; 18 Asti; 19 Amenable; 21 Tree-dog; 22 Edge. Down: 2 Precocious; 3 Echo; 4 Launch; 5 Alarum; 6 Assassin; 7 Ages; 11 Changeling; 13 Two-timer; 16 Reason; 17 Breath; 18 Ants; 20 Acre. QUICK - Across: 1 Trip; 8 Abominable; 9 Spirited; 10 Exit; 12 Scarce; 14 Exempt; 15 Linger; 17 Custom; 18 Tell; 19 Calendar; 21 Distribute; 22 Deep. Down: 2 Respective; 3 Pair; 4 Bottle; 5 Middle; 6 Careless; 7 Sent; 11 Improbable; 13 Regulate; 16 Recoil; 17 Colour; 18 Tidy; 20 Need.



The best cleaners you have ever tried, or your money back!



Put them to the test

See website for details
www.ozkleen.co.uk

Australia's number one cleaners

As seen on



- ✓ Supply Only or Full Installation
- ✓ Buy With Confidence
- ✓ Well Established Family Business
- ✓ Friendly and Professional Service
- ✓ Plumbing, Tiling and Electrics
- ✓ Free Design / Home Visits
- ✓ No Pressure Sales

Kitchens



from
£1399

18mm UNITS, Soft Close Doors & Drawers as standard

Bathrooms



from
£379

VernonWagner 0121 520 4666

2 minutes from ASDA Great Bridge,
Unit 7, Imex Auto Centre,
Dudley Port, Tipton DY4 7RQ
Visit us at vernionwagner.com



ENJOY A REAL
NEWSPAPER-ONLINE
TURN THE PAGES OF THE EXPRESS & STAR
ON YOUR DESKTOP

Only £4.99 per month or £1.49 per week

Interactive features including video. Updated within minutes of publication

GO TO WWW.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM/DIGITAL-SUBSCRIBE

Express & Star

Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688

OPEN SUNDAYS! FRIENDLY SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST!



HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted 3/4 bedroom ground floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C

£800 PCM



HALESOWEN, NEWLANDS DRIVE

Sought after location. Ideally located for Hurst Green Primary School and Halesbury School. Blackheath and buses to Halesowen and Birmingham. This 2 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom semi-detached house comprises a spacious lounge with feature fireplace, modern fitted kitchen/dining room, house bathroom with shower, downstairs WC, gas central heating, large driveway and large rear garden. EPC: E

£695 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

Stylish and quiet living. This immaculately presented modern detached house, close to local shops, features 2 reception rooms, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs wc, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, master bedroom with en-suite, stylish bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking. gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: C

£695 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned full width conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITTINGHAM ROAD

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'j' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F

£650 PCM



DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard with period features. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with mirror flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, large new kitchen with overhead, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewings recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC: F

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

£625 PCM



OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D

£600 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation with 3 bedrooms. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Rent to include £40 fixed electric charge. EPC: C

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, CODSALL ROAD

Spacious living with good parking. Great location for Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Old Hill train station and local shops, this good sized 3 bedroom semi-detached house features a light and airy lounge, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, gas central heating. EPC: C

£525 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

Great value close to Blackheath town centre. A large and spacious mid-terrace unfurnished house featuring 2 reception rooms, dining room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker, downstairs bathroom with wc, 3 bedrooms (2 with fitted wardrobes), upstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. A great price. EPC: D

£525 PCM



QUARRY BANK, EVERS STREET

Complete refurbishment. Set in a quiet residential area, within minutes of Merry Hill, local shops, buses to Merry Hill and Cradley Heath. This mid terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 reception room, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D

£500 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, COPPICE ROAD

A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished comprising front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C

£495 PCM



DUDLEY, ANCHOR DRIVE

Modern and comfortable living. This 2nd floor apartment is set in a quiet location, with easy access to Dudley, Tipton, Wednesbury and the M5. The property features 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen with integrated electric oven and hob, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£475 PCM



SMETHWICK, LEICESTER CLOSE

Set within well maintained gardens. Large and spacious 1st floor apartment with wall to wall windows in lounge. The apartment features a large kitchen with cooker and washing machine, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, shower cubical bathroom. Available immediately. EPC: E

£475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

Ideal for local amenities. A first floor flat, close to shops and local train station featuring electric storage heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, ample parking. EPC: E

£425 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B

£425 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5. Comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D

£400 PCM



DUDLEY, BLACKACRE ROAD

Luxury contemporary living, serviced studios 1.4 and 5 all with shared bathroom facilities. Will include council tax, broadband, servicing, heating and hot water plus sky tv.

£395 PCM

Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge



The much-improved traditional semi-detached house in Oakham, Dudley

Much improved traditional semi



The spacious dining room of the house in Dingle Close



Neat and tidy lounge at the semi-detached home in Dudley

A SUPERBLY presented and much improved traditional three bedroom semi-detached house in Dudley is on the market based on offers around £144,950.

The property, in a sought-after cul-de-sac position in Dingle Close, Oakham, benefits from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing with accommodation briefly comprising of

hall, spacious lounge with dining area, refitted kitchen, three good bedrooms, refitted bathroom and side garage.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 6in by 11ft 10in, has a coal effect gas fire in feature fireplace and arch into the dining area which is 10ft 10in by 9ft 8in.

The kitchen, 9ft 7in by 7ft 1in, has a single drainer one and a half bowl sink with a range of base and wall units, roll top work surfaces, built-in electric oven with four ring gas hob and cooker

hood above. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite including panel bath, pedestal wash hand basin, WC and shower cubicle

Outside is a tandem garage, with the house set back behind a tarmac driveway providing parking for two cars, while the rear garden has a paved patio with steps down to a gravelled low maintenance garden with decking, raised flower borders and large shed. Call Jon Stainer on 01384 77877.

Halesowen Office 0121 6964053
Dudley Office 01384 849067

DIXONS

Estate Agents

Doing**More...**

Tansley Hill Road, Dudley



NEW

Offers Over £200,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, garage and driveway.

Himley Road, Gornal Wood



EPC D

£170,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising downstairs WC, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, rear garden and driveway.

Foxyards Road, Tipton



NEW

Offers Over £160,000

Detached three bedroom house with garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens.

Elwell Crescent, Dudley



NEW

£90,000

End terraced property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs VWC, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

Denbigh Close, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen/diner, bathroom, gardens and driveway.

Ambleside Close, Bradley



New Price

EPC C

Offers Over £80,000

A two bedroom terraced property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and allocated parking.

School Drive, Bilston



EPC Awaiting

£85,000

A three bedroom semi detached property benefitting from two reception rooms, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Cromwell Street, Dudley



EPC D

PUBLIC NOTICE £65,000

NOTICE OF OFFER
25 CROMWELL STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 7HB.

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £59,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

Call Dixons Dudley Branch : 01384 849067

Fairfield Road, Halesowen



EPC D

£205,000

An extended, traditional, end terraced house with accommodation comprising lounge, three bedrooms, rear garden and garage. Halesowen.

Spinners End Drive, Cradley Heath



EPC Awaiting



£170,000

A modern detached bungalow with lounge/diner, two bedrooms, driveway, garage and gardens. Halesowen.

Ross, Rowley Regis



EPC D



Offers Over £160,000

A modern detached bungalow with lounge, two bedrooms, gardens, driveway and garage. Halesowen.

Two Gates Lane, Halesowen



EPC Awaiting



Offers Over £140,000

Semi detached house with four bedrooms, garden and off road parking. Viewing is recommended. Halesowen.

Cherry Orchard Crescent, Halesowen



EPC D

£185,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, driveway, garage and rear garden. Halesowen.

SEE OUR STOCK ON EBAY

Cradley Heath Motor Company Ltd.

www.cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk

NOW OPEN ON SUNDAY, 10AM-4PM

APPLY FOR CREDIT ONLINE

OUR SELECTION	OUR PRICE
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 57 Reg, 5-dr, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, 27k, SH.....	£3495
PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT 56 Reg 3-dr Black, Air Con, Alloys, 51K, FSH.....	£3695
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRI 56 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 57k, FSH.....	£3695
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Seats, 40k, FSH.....	£3795
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 EXTREME 57 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, alloys, 59k, FSH.....	£3995
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 DESIGN 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 53K, FSH.....	£3995
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRI 06 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 59k, FSH.....	£3995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Estate 08 (57 Reg) Auto, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 38k, FSH.....	£3995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI MAXIM 06 Reg 5-dr Black, Air Con, Alloys, 70k, FSH.....	£3995
FIAT PANDA 1.1 ACTIVE 09 Reg, 5-dr, Red, 20k, FSH.....	£3995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 TECH RUN 08 Reg, 3-dr, Red, Air Con, Alloys, 41K, FSH.....	£4295
JAGUAR X TYPE 2.0 D CLASSIC 05 Reg, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 68k, FSH.....	£4995
VW GOLF 1.6 FSI SE 06 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH.....	£5795
LEXUS IS 220 Diesel 57 Reg, 4-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 60k, FSH.....	£6495
VW GOLF 1.9 TDI MATCH 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH.....	£6995
AUDI A3 1.9 TDI Special Edition 07 Reg, 3-dr, Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 54k, FSH.....	£7795
MERCEDES A160 1.6 60 Reg, Blue, Efficiency, Classic, SE, Black, Air Con, 30k, FSH.....	£7995
TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT 58 Reg, 5-dr, Grey, air con, alloys, sat nav, 56k, FSH.....	£8495
VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI SPORT Estate 08 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 62k, FSH.....	£8495
VOLVO V50 1.6 DSE 09 Reg 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Leather, 56k, FSH.....	£9995

SPORTS

MINI COOPER 1.6 CHILLI 05 Reg, 3-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, only 43k, Service History.....	£5295
RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 DCI PRIVILEGE Cabriolet, 57 Reg, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, Leather, 77k, FSH.....	£5495
MINI COOPER 05 Reg, 3-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 40k, FSH.....	£5495
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE S CABRIOLET 09 (58 Reg), Grey, Air Con, Alloys, 31K, FSH.....	£6495
SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX TYPE UK SL 06 Reg, 4-dr, Grey, Leather Seats, Air Con, Alloys, 69K, FSH.....	£6495

MPVs

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 DTI 04 Reg, 5-dr, Grey Metallic, Air Con, Alloys, 79k, SH.....	£2995
RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 06 Reg, 5-dr, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, 60k, FSH.....	£3495
RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 PRIVILEGE 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 7 seats, 49k, FSH.....	£4995
CHRYSLER VOYAGER 2.8 TDLX AUTO 56 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 51K, FSH.....	£5495
SEAT ALTEA XL STYLEANCE 1.9 TDI DSG 57 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 56k, FSH.....	£6495
VW TOURAN 1.6 S 08 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 7 Seats, 46k, FSH.....	£6795
FORD S-MAX 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 57 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 55k, FSH.....	£8995
SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI S 2011 (60 Reg), 5-dr, Red, Air Con, only 7k, FSH.....	£11,795

4x4

| TOYOTA RAV 4 GRANITE D4D, 05 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 95k, SH..... | £5995 |
| KIA SORENTO 2.5 CRDI XE Auto 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 53k, FSH..... | £7695 |

MERCEDES A160 1.6

60 Reg, Blue, Efficiency, Classic, SE, Black, Air Con, 30k, FSH £8495

TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT

58 Reg, 5-dr, Grey, air con, alloys, sat nav, 56k, FSH £8495

MERCEDES A150 AVANTGARDE SE

55 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 52k, FSH £4995

SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI

2011 (60 reg) 5-dr, Red, Air Con, only 75k FSH £11,795

SUBARU IMPREZA 2.5 WRX TYPE UK SL

06 Reg, 4-dr, Grey, Leather Seats, Air Con, Alloys, 69K, FSH £6495

YOUR LOCAL FINANCE SPECIALISTS
 MORE CARS ARRIVING DAILY
 • FREE WARRANTY • FULL MOT ON ALL VEHICLES • P/X WELCOME • NO DEPOSIT DEALS •
Typical Finance example: Cost of Car £4495, Deposit £395, Admin Fee £199, Total Amount Payable £5285.84, 48 Monthly Payments of £117.23 or 288 Weekly Payments of £22. (Typical) 16.2% APR

HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING CREDIT? GIVE US A CALL!!

Tel: 01384 561455 Fax: 01384 561525

56 CRADLEY RD, CRADLEY HEATH, WEST MIDS, B64 7BB

Email: sales@cradleyheathmotorco.co.uk

Motoring



The new Toyota Avensis has not changed its look on the outside but inside the trim levels have been revised

New names introduced for the updated Toyota Avensis

TOYOTA has updated the Avensis range for 2013 with several specification changes and a naming structure that falls into line with the firm's latest all-new models.

Although outwardly little has changed, the four trim levels have been revised and now start with Active, mirroring that of new models such as the Auris. Above Active is Icon, then Icon Plus and Excel. They replace T2, TR, T4 and T Spirit grades respectively.

Two key equipment changes have been highlighted for the new model year. Firstly, all cars from Icon upwards will be fitted with a DAB digital radio tuner as standard.

Better news for buyers of the Active

grade is that all levels will gain follow-me-home headlights that can be programmed to remain on for a certain amount of time after the ignition is turned off, lighting the way to an owner's front door.

Active models have steel wheels, Bluetooth connectivity, seven airbags, air conditioning, a CD player, electric front windows and leather steering wheel trim.

Icon, predicted to be the volume seller, adds DAB radio, 17in alloy wheels, satellite navigation with a touchscreen media interface and a rear-view reversing camera, cruise control, climate control, electric lumbar support for the driver, electric rear windows and automatic headlights and wipers.

The Icon Plus adds polish to the

impressive spec with an 11-speaker audio system, half-leather upholstery, a unique alloy wheel design, a nickel- and wood-effect centre console and electric folding door mirrors.

Finally, the Excel grade is king of the hill with full black leather seats, 18in alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, heated front seats with electric adjustment, bi-xenon headlights and additional rear parking sensors.

Prices will start from £19,155 for the Active 1.8 petrol manual saloon, with the key Icon model priced at £22,445 and £23,495 for the saloon and the Tourer estate respectively.

Icon Plus asks an extra £1,800, while the most expensive option is the Excel 2.2-litre D-CAT 150 diesel Tourer with an automatic gearbox, at £29,895.

UNSTOPPABLE OFFERS. BELIEVE IT.



0% APR
REPRESENTATIVE*

FIND GREAT DEALS ON CHEVROLET MODELS.

5 FIVE YEAR WARRANTY

SPARK 1.0+

THE 5-DOOR CITY CAR WITH EXPRESSIVE DESIGN

£132 PER MONTH
NIL DEPOSIT
60 MONTHS **£7,975**

- Electric Windows
- 119g/km - only £30 per year road tax
- 5-door practicality
- Central locking
- Fuel efficient: up to 55.4mpg
- CD-Radio with Aux input
- MP3 & USB connectivity



Picture for illustration purposes only

AVEO 1.2 LS

THE 5-DOOR CITY CAR THAT'S FUN TO DRIVE

£171 PER MONTH
NIL DEPOSIT
60 MONTHS **£10,295**

- 5* NCAP
- £30 a year road tax
- Air conditioning
- Start/Stop technology
- Electric Windows
- Cruise control



Picture for illustration purposes only



HALESOWEN MOTOR HOUSE

Dudley Road West Midlands B63 3NH
0121 462 2914
www.halesowenchvrolet.co.uk

Spark 1.0+ and Aveo 1.2 LS shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until March 31st 2013. *0% APR Representative. Minimum 20% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc. RHI/ISR. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and a 3 year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO₂ emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO₂ emissions 147 - 95g/km.



Making Friends



To view these members and others go to: [http:// dating.expressandstar.com](http://dating.expressandstar.com)
HELEN & RICKY

Are this weeks featured web ads



RICKY 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out.

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus.

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&C's below)

SINGLE LADIES

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

SUSAN 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs hand reysing. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403361

SHARON medium build lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LONG haired blond, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36kd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTm someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047



CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

SLIM curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

39YR old black haired, medium build, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

SINGLE MEN

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. (T&C's below).

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461

MALE 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861

PLACE AN ADVERT

0844 887 2293

REPLY TO MEMBERS

0906 500 3955

(09065 cost £1.53p/min)

COLLECT MESSAGES

0906 500 3957

(09065 cost £1.53p/min)



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

BORED and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDP 205026 to 66888

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDP 204765 to 66888

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. Text INDP 205285 to 66888

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDP 204668 to 66888

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! Text INDP 205069 to 66888

SUE, sporty and fun, why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

NATALIE, foreign beauty hopes a nice working man will send her a text. She is home alone. Text INDP 204600 to 66888

SENSITIVE, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

LINDSEY, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 205034 to 66888

SALLY, student, 20yrs, needs an escape from the boredom. Text INDP 204570 to 66888

NURSE, mid 20's, blonde and curvy is bored. Text her! Text INDP 204698 to 66888

GLAM Gran, mid 50's, home babysitting and would love to chat to you. Text INDP 205100 to 66888

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

ROGER is a solvent, business gent, very rich and generous, would love to romance a special lady of any age. Text INDP 204654 to 66888

JON, Genuine caring man, give him a call and a have a chat. All texts will be returned. Text INDP 204621 to 66888

TEXT AN ADVERTISER!

If an advert has a # next to it then you can reply by text! Send #WOL followed by the box no. of the advertiser plus your message and send it to 66888*

SEE PHOTOS OF MEMBERS

If an ad has a # next to it, then the advertiser has sent in their photo. Simply text: #WOLDATE [space] mailbox number & send to 66833*

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call our support team 0844 800 1188 weekdays 10-4, support@mediasuk.co.uk

CALL CHARGES*: **DATING** 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0905/09065 calls cost £1.53 per min. plus network charges. Mobiles will be considerably higher, calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. 033 calls are charged at standard network rate. TEXT*: 88833 texts £1.50 per msg. Mobiles must be MMS/Map compatible in order to use these services. If not contact your Network Provider. Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week (3 x 50p billed msgs). To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 0787474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. Reply by Text to 66888 costs £1.50 per msg sent plus your network's standard charges. A minimum of six messages from each party are checked and passed for safety before adult verified users may pass contact details. Max 150 characters per message. Profiles that have a mobile phone icon may be contacted by SMS text. This service is moderated by operators for your safety.

*SMS Txt Chat 'Fun on your mobile' 66888. Cost £1.50/msg sent. SMS Txt Chat 'TEXT FOR FUN' is a virtual chat service meaning that you will not be able to meet the people listed. This service is for fun & entertainment only. We reserve the right to contact individuals with occasional promotional invitations. Switchfire Ltd. To STOP text stop to 66888. Help: 0844 445 7707. Opt Out: www.SFire.co.uk. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0844 800 1188. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 25 03 13

Local Tradesmen



AERIALS

LUKE KINGS AERIALS
HALESOWEN 0121 445 1382
FREEPHONE 0800 211 8053
LUKES MOBILE 07864 590543

£20 OFF New Aerial Systems
£10 OFF OAP DISCOUNT

YOUR LOCAL AERIAL MAN

NEW AERIALS From £49

REPAIRS & TUNING From £29

AERIALS REMOVED - FREE SAT - FREEVIEW

FREE HELP & ADVICE OPEN 7 DAYS



BLINDS & CURTAINS

Blinds4Less

Top quality blinds at budget prices

"We will beat any like for like quote"

3 From £95 on selected Vertical / Rollers

Local company, full range of blinds

TO VIEW OUR BLINDS VISIT
www.blinds4lessdirect.com

WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 500204 or 07989 588728

SANDWELL/HALESOWEN 01384 886162

3 for 2 on selected blinds

10% discount with this advert

- All Types of Blinds
- Made to Measure Curtains
- Roman Blinds
- Conservatory Specialists
- Plantation Shutters
- Patio Awnings, Electric Blinds

Davies Blinds

5 Year Guarantee
• Extensive range of blind & shutter designs and materials
• Prompt and efficient service

Call 0121 624 2053

www.daviesblinds.co.uk

Quality & Professionalism Assured

BLT Blinds
From £30 A Window
Hand Made to your requirements.
Exceptional Quality as Standard
Wide Choice of top quality fabrics available
FREE ESTIMATES
Call Rob 07771 554455

CARPENTRY

SM CARPENTRY & BUILDING

- Extensions/Canopy's
- loft conversions
- Bathroom and Kitchen Refurbs
- Fitted Bedrooms/Home Offices
- All Types Of Plasterings
- General Carpentry

CALL: 0121 601 7727 • 07879 681591

COMPUTERS

NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?

- All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed
- Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks
- Home Network Implemented • Internet Connections Installed

DONT BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC

Call: 0121 422 7646 or: 07970 846 552

JUDRAP PC SUPPORT

email: support@judrap.com www.judrap.com

DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

Bow's Universal Domestic Installs

- Gas, Electric and LPG
- Built-in Ovens and Hobs
- Range Cookers and Hobs
- Washers, Dishwashers, Televisions, Wallmounts also installed

COOKER INSTALLS
Gas Safe Register 506334

01562 741179 | 07973 534527 | 07932 723061
www.bowsuniversaldomesticinstalls.com

DECORATING

HARRISONS
Painting & Decorating - Property Maintenance
Domestic & Commercial Work Undertaken
Interior & Exterior Painting & Decorating
(All General / Maintenance Work Considered)
Call: 07792865975
Email Nick@harrisondcoratingservices.co.uk
www.harrisondcoratingservices.co.uk
(We also offer cleaning services for UPVC Windows/Frames / Gutters & Patios)
No job too small... or too big
Call today for a free quote

T W Decorating Services

Painting and Decorating,
and General Maintenance

Professional and Reliable

OAP FRIENDLY

For a FREE Quote

Call Tim On:

0121 559 4762

07890 779785

HALESOWEN DECORATORS
Painters & Decorators

OAP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

10% OFF with this advert

Residential and Commercial

work undertaken

CALL 07860 206713 / 0121 550 5764

CARPETS

Able & Bromley

Carpet and Bed Retail Discount Warehouse

100% Wool Carpet from £4.99 sq yd

Heavy Saxony Carpet from £8.99 sq yd

Beds from £99

100's of Bargains

Can't get out we will bring samples to you

All areas covered

Tel: 01902 880541

LOCKSMITHS

LOCK PROBLEMS

UPVC, Yale, Chubb, etc? Lost keys?

Broken door locks? Window and door

security locks changed, fitted, upgraded.

Tony Lane 01384 354344

07540 380140

DOUBLE GLAZING

SCOTTS WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIRS

- Misty Units
- Broken Locks
- Door Repairs
- Patio Doors

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

07973 84 84 38
0800 034 0344

Misted Sealed Units?
Contact us for a free quote!

Tel 01384 566100

Email: quotations@blackcountryglazing.com

BLACK COUNTRY GLAZING Est 1987

ELECTRICIANS

Starkey Electrical Ltd
Manor House
Manor Lane, Halesowen Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Electricians

For all your electrical needs in the home, garden, driveway or office/retail premises

- Landlord Certification • Fuse board replacements
- Rewiring • Energy saving LED Lighting
- Emergency call outs-7 days a week
- Experienced electricians NICEIC regulated
- Competitive Prices/FREE quotations

www.starkeyelectrical.co.uk

email: stuart@starkeyelectrical.co.uk

0121 602 8088 (24 Hour Call Outs)

07967 650 567 OFFICE: 0844 561 7244

DJB Electrical Contractors Ltd

We are NIC EIC approved electrical company and also TRUST MARK and PART P registered.

All are electricians are CRB checked.

24 hour 7 days a week call outs

We cover Domestic, Commercial, Industrial

- Landlord reports / testing and certification
- Rewires • Fuse board up grades

• Energy efficient led lighting for your home and business

• Internal / external lighting • Shower replacements

• Additional sockets • Intruder / cctv systems

• Check out our great reviews on checkatrade.com

T: 0121 647 7087 T: 01384 881017

M: 0790 090 3000

E: Darren@djbelectricalcontractors.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

CW Electrical
Kingswinford Limited

Domestic Industrial Commercial

Fault Finding & Condition Reports

Rewires/Part Rewires

Additional Sockets

Shower Replacements

Intruder Alarms

Security Lights

Storage Heaters

Electric Cooker Repairs

Visit our website for more services

Over 16 Years Experience

01384 278471

INSTALLATIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

ELECTRICIAN

Fully guaranteed work

Honest reliable service

ANT ELECTRIC

Ring Tony or Julie on

0121 422 3549

07974 428 603

'No Job Too Small'

INTERIORS

Elegant Stairs

Quality Stairparts

supplied & fitted

by mature

craftsman

For this and other carpentry

work phone Bill for a

Free Estimate/Quote on

0121 533 9339

or 07505 807686

MAN WITH VAN

MR VANMAN

- House removals
- Office removals
- No job too small
- Student moves

Same day call out

Phone Neil

07951 249803

BUILDERS

D H Household Maintenance

Decking to DIY

Plastering to Plumbing

All areas covered

0121 422 8594

07985 548466

MB electric

All domestic and commercial

electrical works undertaken

Home rewiring from £800

For a high quality

local service call :

0121 3600311

07939 503005

mbelectric.co.uk

MULLARD ELECTRICAL SERVICES

ALL TYPES OF DOMESTIC

ELECTRICAL WORK

UNDERTAKEN & FINISHED TO

THE HIGHEST STANDARD

Call Dan on:

01384 263357

or 07866 886364

PJ LEE BUILDERS

- All Building Work Undertaken
- Extensions
- All Roofing Work
- UPVC Fascias & Windows

FREE QUOTES

07769 667248 01384 423625

HANDYMAN

Midlands Handyman
for Home Improvements

e.g. Flat pack furniture • curtain and blind hanging

• hanging doors • felling sheds • changing locks

• painting & decorating • putting up shelves

• laying of ceramic / laminate floors • all at competitive prices

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Call Simon for a FREE Quote

0121 679 8968 / 07988 263578

To advertise your business and reach over 50,000 potential customers....

1

Call us on...
01384 353227

2

E-mail us at...
r.cooper@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Ryan Cooper, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake
Regional Centre, West Bromwich. B70 0QB

Local Tradesmen



FENCING

Fencing & Gates
All Garden Work Undertaken
 • Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
 • Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
 Manufacturers of all Concrete Products
 eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
 All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
 Over 15 years experience (Public Liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

LBT Fencing
All types of quality fencing supplied & erected
Plus decking, slabbing & block paving
FREE QUOTES
 Tel: 0121 585 9992 or 07884 344616
www.lbtfencing.co.uk

Grange Fencing & Landscaping
Every aspect in landscaping
 • Patios • Brickwalls • Fencing • Turfing
 • Block Paving • Shed Bases • Edgings
 • Specialists in Decking
 For great ideas call for a **FREE** quote anytime,
 7 days a week. Est. Since 1978
Call: 01384 824089 / 07889 817996

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

THE Bathroom SPECIALIST
Free Full Design and Advice Service
Supply and Install or Fit Only
Bathroom Repairs
Skilled Craftsman
PHONE JOHN 01384 639 097

C.J.R. Property Maintenance
DIY
Don't Involve Yourself
 • Carpentry • Plumbing • Tiling
 • Kitchens • Bathrooms
 • Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
 • Laminate Flooring • Plastering
 • Decking • Fencing
 • Brickwork & Alterations
 • Extensions
NO JOB TOO SMALL
 For a FREE no obligation quote call Wayne on
Tel: 01384 572628
M: 07973 855569

Wednesbury Kitchens
 • Kitchen and Bathroom Installation
 • Building Works
 • Extensions • Plastering
 • Tiling • Carpentry
 • Painting and Decorating
 • Plumbing and Electrical Works
45 Lower High Street, Wednesbury
0121 505 3334

SPECIALISTS

ELITE PLASTICS
 • Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
 • Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865

GARDENING

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES

*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
 *Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
 *Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
 *Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
24/7 365 emergency callout service
01384 213644 or 07733 226568

Age concern & Local Authority Contractor
 N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
 All staff C.R.B. Certified

R.A. GARDEN SERVICES

Established 24 years

Gardening & Landscaping Services
 Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
 • Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
 • Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared

FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS

FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
07970 876 638 • 01384 569 143

GREEN LEAVES GARDEN SERVICES
 • Shed bases
 • Tree Felling
 • Strimming
 • Fencing
 • Lawn Mowing
 • General Garden Maintenance
SPECIAL RATES FOR O.A.P.S
For a free quote call 0770 3381 241

The Grass Guru
 Grass Cutting & Garden Services
 Call Scott now for a free quote
07927 880283
0121 4232692
 See if we can beat your current grass cutting price
 25% discount on first cuts

TREE SURGEON

The Tree Company
Halesowen's local Professional Tree Surgeon
Tree care & ground maintenance
Est 1987 Fully insured
Call Richard for a free quote
Tel 0121 550 8547 Mob 07752 436 902
www.thetreecohallesowen.co.uk

LOFT LADDERS

The Loft Ladder Man
Loft Ladders fitted from £130 inclusive
 New or enlarged hatches
 T & G Flooring, Lighting
Call Terry on
07595 584 565 or
01384 833025
Fully Insured

GARAGE DOORS

L M S GARAGE DOORS
All types of doors supplied and fitted
Fast low cost, same day repairs
For a free survey and quote call
0121 559 0455
07592 118707

MOTORING ACCESSORIES

MOT £27.99 with this advert
FREE RE-TEST
Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ
0121 559 6001

PAVING

DRIVES • PATHS • PATIOS • COBBLES
FINE-LINE PAVING
 (MIDLANDS LTD)
 Contact Andy or Graham now,
 for a Free, No Obligation Quote
All Work Guaranteed
(01384) 869605
07754 676336 / 07950 659668
10% off with this advert
Visit our website www.fine-linepaving.co.uk

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Paths • Patios
Slabbing • Red Tarmac Car Parks
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

PLASTERING

AB PLASTERING
All types of plastering work undertaken
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FREE quotes & friendly advice
Call us on 01384 622466 or 07971 569648

CI PLASTERING
 All aspects of Plastering,
 Dry Lining,
 Skimming and Rendering,
 Artex and Artex Removed
 Insurance work undertaken
Call for free estimates
0121 4213934
07748 644816

Nick's Plastering Services
ALL TYPES OF PLASTERING WORK UNDERTAKEN
Advanced City and Guilds Qualified
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Low Prices
FREE QUOTES
0121 559 4818
07930 525677

PLUMBING & HEATING

Gas Heating Services
Office 52A, Summer Hill, Halesowen
(opposite Wilkinson)
 • Central Heating • Gas Fitting
 • Plumbing
 • Gas Appliance Servicing
 • Boiler Maintenance & Repairs
 • Specialists in Combination Boilers
 • Fully Trained Engineers
 • Family Run Business
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTES
Call us today for fast, friendly advice
Office: 0121 503 0066 Mobile: 07584 070 475
www.gassafe1.com

Direct Plumbing Services
7 year guarantee on all boilers
Special Offer Worcester Bosch Boiler supplied and fitted from £1299
Baxi Main Boilers supplied and fitted from £1099
 • Servicing
 • Breakdown work No Fix - No fee
 • Landlord Certificates
 • Bathrooms supplied and fitted
 • Fires & Cookers
 • Commercial Gas Registered
Call Stephen on 07545 704363

R.S PLUMBING AND HEATING
All General Plumbing Undertaken
 • Bathrooms Suites
 • Radiators / Tanks / Pumps Fitted
 • Outside Taps Fitted
 • Leaks Repaired
 • PipeWork Alterations • Local Friendly Service
Call Richard: 07902 557 496

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING
 (General Plumbing and Bathrooms)
iphe All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 • 0121-601 6767
www.household-plumbing.co.uk

PLUMBING & HEATING

Knight Gas Heating & Plumbing
 Central Heating/Boilers
 Fires and Cookers
 Installation and Repair
 All Plumbing Work
 Landlords certificate
FREE QUOTES
Call Gary on
0121 550 3424 or
07715 082113

SUPERWARM HEATING
 Specialists in replacing
 Boilers, Power Flushing Systems,
 Landlord Certificate's, Worcester
 Bosch & Vaillant accredited Installer
30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
Ex British Gas
Call Eddie
07976 755441
0121 544 8427

P&D Plumbing Services
 • Specialist in small plumbing repairs
 • Tap repairs • Overflows • Tanks
 • Burst pipes • No Flashes
 General plumbing repairs and guttering
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
 Over 35 years' experience
 For a friendly, reliable service
 Call Paul on 07751 669066

LANDSCAPERS

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands
 Specialists in Patios,
 Driveways, Paths, Fencing,
 Turfing, Decking and
 Landscaping
Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or
07520 203444

PLASTERING

ARTEX MAN
 Complete range
 Repairs and coving
FOR FREE ESTIMATE
 Telephone Tim on Sedgley
(01902) 675144/
07890 655189

DH PLASTERERS
 FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs to complete rooms
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
0121 422 8594 or
07985 548466

ROOFING

R HICKMAN ROOFING LTD

28 years experience

ALL TYPES OF ROOFING AND MAINTENANCE

FREE Quotes

- General work undertaken
- All areas covered
- Fascias, Soffits & Gutters

Call: 07970 818147

ROOFING SERVICES

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
 - Small Repairs From £15
 - Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS**
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs
- Insurance work undertaken
 - Est 25 years
 - Discounted for OAPs
 - Exterior Painting



Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

Services

Fast and friendly service from a family run business, with over 10 years' experience
SPECIALISTS IN TILE, SLATE,
fibreglass flat roofing, flat felt roofing, uPVC, fascias, soffits and guttering, lead work, pointing and storm damage

no job too big or too small
For a free quote call
0121 421 1649 or 07841 046 126
Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PD

ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slatings, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience
© 0121 420 1582
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Mobile Number: 07947 839451

UPHOLSTERY

JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC
No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Choice of patterns
Quality Workmanship
• Blackheath
0121 561 3977 daytime
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

TILING

I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on

01384 412796 or 07890 894631

CERAMIC FLOOR & WALL TILING

BATHROOMS, KITCHENS AND CONSERVATORIES
For a free quote call
Tony Baker
0121 422 4116
07961 604632

SKIP HIRE

SKIP HIRE IN HALESOWEN

Minis - Midis

The best in the West

0121 561 5493

07956 664002

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs to your home and garden

Also interior and exterior decorating

Local Friendly Service

0121 532 4861

No Job Too Small

RUBBISH REMOVAL

ROB'S RUBBISH

EST. 20 YEARS

A CHEAP RUBBISH

REMOVAL 7 DAYS

Small Jobs

NO PROBLEM

We load, No Skips

Free Estimates

Garden, Household, Shed, Garage, Fridges, White Goods, House Clearances

0121 500 6033

WEST BROMWICH

classified

There's nothing like it for buying and selling

01902 317878

www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

ONLINE FREE ADVERTS

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

For items up to £250

Simply press the free ad icon

Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock. Private advertisers only.

By telephone, post or in person at your local branch.

Items up to £250

£3.00 per entry

Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.

Private advertisers only.

SELL IT FAST

SELL IT LOCAL

Only £19.50

For 6 nights

(Conditions apply)

Place your ad

By phone 01902 317878

8.30am - 6pm Monday - Friday

Closed Saturday

Online

www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

In person

at your local Express & Star Office

Cancel/amend, call before 4.00pm Monday - Friday for the next day's advertisement or also before 4pm Friday for Monday's advertisement

Lost & Found

LOST/GINGER MALE CAT

Little bit of white.

In Lewis Street, Bilston, may have wandered for some distance.

Urgently need to find him as pet for special needs boy.

01902 570787.

GENTLEMAN, 57,

seeks lady for friendship and days out.

Loving, caring nature and sincere.

Box Number P18445,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN, 59.

Slim, likes nights in and out, sports, walks, having a laugh, WLTW lady, 48-58 for long term relationship.

Box Number P18435,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 60

WLTW Lady of similar age, for companionship.

Theatre, dining out plus other interests.

Box Number P18436,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PENN COLTS FC

Charter Standard Club, are looking for Children in Current School year 1, to join our Academy and play for Penn Colts Teams in September.

Training Saturday mornings.

Also any parents who may be interested in Coaching or Managing a team.

Please contact Dave

07831 582978.

49 YEAR OLD MALE

Single, no ties, WLTW, honest female aged 40-50 years.

Dudley and surrounding areas.

Box Number P18449,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 80's

With own house and car.

Wishes to meet Lady for companionship and friendship.

Box Number P18438,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 61

Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for Friendship. Possible relationship.

Car driver preferred.

Box Number P18450,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, SEEKS GENT

for friendship.

Car owner preferred.

Aged between 64 - 74, Doddridge / Wednesbury or near to areas.

Box Number P18429,

Express and Star,

classified

There's nothing like it for buying and selling
01902 317878 www.expressandstar.com/my-classified

removals

CHEAPER REMOVALS
REMOVAL VAN & DRIVER
FOR HIRE
Single Items to Full Removals
01902 894916 / 07807 77035

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
0800 587 0377
or 07749 943139

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat house removals/cleanances, local/nationalwide. Call Steve. 0121 422 2669 or 07815 04374
CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/Full house 1 item 07829 45329/01902 830870
CALL PETE - A MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances. Items large and small. Call: 01902 417546 / 07917 679390 / 01384 406126.
GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large. Screened soil and crushed hardcore for sale. All skips for weekend must be booked by Friday 0121 555 6060.

MT SKIPS

All sizes
All areas covered
Immediate delivery
Competitive prices
Fast and Reliable service
Call: 01384 240956
07920 885774

specialists at your service

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.
Call Paul: 0800 112 3959
www.aaclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk

double glazing repairs

GET THE FOG OUT!
Condensation removal
from failed double
glazing at least
50% cheaper than
replacements.
01902 488915

flooring

3 FLOOR FINISHES
Laminates, Carpet & Vinyl Floor Fitters
Professional and Reliable service,
25 years experience. Free estimates.
Call: 07890 981282

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
hour. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07815 184686.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES

Boilers
Cookers
Fires
Gas Checks
Landlord Certificates
Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/
07761 973975

guttering

A* GUTTER CLEAN
Drives, Patios & Conservatories
FREE Call Out & Quotes:
07969 117656

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans.
Furniture Submittals. 10 years exp.
Tel: 01902 622000 / 07841 554037.
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling,
roof repairs, fascias and gutters.
Call 01902 238089 / 07580 465449.
PREMIER ROOFING 25% off all
New Roofs, Repairs and Fascias.
01384 353600 or 07875 587445.
SEMI RETIRED ROOFER All things
roofing, flat roofs/fascias and
guttering, 38 yrs experience.
Please call Keith: 07546 158165

tv/home entertainments

service

AERIAL / TV SPECIALISTS
TV Plasma / LCD repairs
Digital aerial installation
Wall mount / set ups from £99
Any area, 7 days
07850 330251

wedding bells

function rooms

FREE FUNCTION ROOM wed-
dings, anniversaries, birthdays.
Powerleague 01384 266000
halesowen@powerleague.co.uk

leisure

boats & water sports

DELROYD 12ft boat with 40hp
Yamaha engine and trailer,
£1,400 ono. 01952 419289.
NARROW BOAT 50ft, licensed till
Jan 2014, 4 year safety certificate,
£20,000 ono. Open to offers. 07528
536579, 07772 764301.

QUICKSILVER 400

13ft. In-Shore Dory Boat,
2009/2010 Tohatsu 10hp, 4
stroke engine, virtually
unused, snipe galvanised
wired trailer, complete outfit,
like new, ready to go.

Cost £5,000, sell £2,875.
01902 791367.

camping

FOUR BERTH TENT
Blacks Sandringham, as new.
£95 ono.
07588 768515.

car boot sales

BEST BOOTSALE GO FRIEDY - MARCH 23
EVERY SATURDAY & EASTER BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY - April 1 10am-2pm.
B4176 Rabbit Run, by TFM
between Dudley and Telford,
WV15 5LS.
www.bestbootsales.com
07890 267041

BEST WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BOOTSALE
10am-2pm.
Ivy House Farm, A461, Spring Hill,
Lichfield, WS14 0BX.
www.bestbootsales.com
07890 267041

BIGGEST EVERY SATURDAY & EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY BOOTSALE
10am-2pm, Cocksparrow Lane,
off A34, Huntington, Cannock,
WS12 4PB.
www.bestbootsales.com
07890 267041

caravan holidays

CARAVAN Conwy, North Wales.
Families and Couples only All dates.
07944 671492.

markets

The Famous BILSTON SUNDAY MARKET & CAR BOOT
52 WEEKS A YEAR, WHATEVER THE WEATHER!
OVER 150 SHELTERED STALLS
£15 for 1 / £20 for 2 / £25 for 3
NO MUD! FREE PARKING!
VOTED THE MIDLANDS BEST!
SELLERS TURN UP - £10 PER BOOT
BILSTON TOWN CENTRE, WV14 0DN
CALL DAVE
07907 332068
www.bilstonevents.com

BIGGEST SUNDAY MARKET IN THE MIDLANDS

Bescot Stadium, Walsall FC
Walsall FREE PARKING, 30 M5
07889 975701 All hand standing
Stall Hire Available From £21

caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

CARAVAN WANTED, around 18ft,
£1,000 cash paid.
07930 945337 or 01384 484309.

TOURING CARAVAN any size.
Cash.
Will collect.
01299 251899.

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK
Near Ludlow
35x12ft caravans from £10,000
Golf, bowls, Club Why go Further?
01584 823433
www.bcpark.co.uk

A BEAUTIFUL TOURING PARK

Between Bridgnorth and Ludlow -
ADULTS ONLY
All weather Super Pitches
01584 823456
www.thehillpark.co.uk

ABBEY GTS 215, luxury, top of
range, 2 berth, 2007, microwave,
shower, central heating, service
throughout, £7,250.
07980 395133 or 01922 493847.
ABI ACE RALLYMAN, 2 berth, 92,
cassette toilet, motorhome,
awning, fridge, £1,200.
01902 411919 or 07954 685195.

ABI MONZA 1994, 4 berth, good
condition, awning, good starter
caravan, £799 ono.
01384 258000 or 07817 551878.

BAILEY PAGEANT 18ft, 4 berth,
1999, full awning, and bathroom,
top of range, good condition,
£2,900, 07585 862077.

BAILEY PAGEANT IMPERIAL 2000
Large 2 berth, very good
condition, including awning,
bathroom, shower, toilet,
CH, KRIS reg, extras if
required £2,750.
01384 936178 or 07832 225251.

BAILEY RANGER 550-6
2002, 6 berth, with fixed bunk
to rear, side dinette, comes
with aqua roll, waste, ALO
hitchlock, sun canopy.
£4,250 ono.
07837 993824.

BAILEY SEASIDE VERMONT

2 berth, 2008, end washroom,
motor, also security, fully ser-
viced, ready to go,
excellent condition, sale due
to ill health.
£9,250 ono.
Telephone 01902 761926
or 07702 727155.

BUCCANER ELAN 15, 2 berth,
cooker, fridge, etc, and shower,
toilet, DW, mains hook-up, good
condition, £1,200, 01527 873955.

COMPASS CORONA 950, reg, 5
berth, immaculate, £6,750.
01905 620360.

COMPASS OMEGA 482
2-Berth Caravan. 2008.
1st purchased June 2009.
Stored undercover.
Body warranty 2014. Motor
mover and many extras.
£7,995, o.n.o.
Telephone 01902 893065

DOREMA AWNING, size 7, used
twice, excellent condition,
£175, o.n.o. 07904 813169.

ELDDIS AVANTE 636
2006, luxury 6-berth, twin axle,
blow air heating, two electric
CD, radio, full awning, many
extras, excellent condition,
£6,995.
01902 375976.

FORD FREDA Transporter, 2.5
diesel, Wine 2000, 8 seats, turns
into beds, EW and blinds, imma-
culate, £3,000, ono. 01902 798156.

what's on

Pre Season Sale
Small *** Site
Caravans from £5995
Inclusive 2013 Fees (£1090)
01686 670408
07891 528061

ISABELLA VENTURA Atlantic
Beagle, Size 925, 2 years old.
Fibre glass poles. Maroon and
white. £395, o.n.o. 01902 893065.

LUNA SUNBEAM 4-berth touring caravan, electric motor, Ideal first caravan. £850. 01902 375808.

DOG KENNEL

as new, 4ft long x
2ft 10ins wide x 3ft high, cost £80,
sell for £40. 01902 834764.

FOREST DOG RESCUE

Rehoming - Patches - Springer,
3yrs, male. Harley - GSD X,
3yrs, male. Ella - Boxer X,
8mths, female. Poppy - X,
Breed, 8mths, female. Hattie -
X, 12mths, female. Freddie -
Staffie X, 2yrs, male. Romeo -
Springer, 3yrs, male. Charlie -
Young Lab X, male. Zippy -
Lurcher, 3yrs, male. Percy -
Mastiff X, 2yrs, male. Biscuit -
Staffie, 3yrs, male. Kipper -
young Mastiff X, male. Bart &
Marge - young Huskies.
01299 269181 or 07564 262371
www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

SITED STATIC CARAVAN

For sale on Brynnewen Holiday Park
13,000 inc. fees Call 07773672252

SWIFT SUNDANCE 590RS

Fiut Ducato 2.8 JTD, 5 Berth,
2002, 48.6K, 4 fwd facing seat
belts, fully serviced, full MoT,
gas hob, certificate, immo-
biliser alarm, screen blinds,
awning, cycle rack, roof rack,
fixed over cab double bed,
dining/double bed, single
bath, fridge, warranty.
£17,495, 07973 892588.

MUST BE SEEN

WILLERBY WESTMORLAND

2001 caravan, 32ft x 12ft,
in very good condition, close to
Rhayader, 7 miles from Llan-
rhydder Wells, within easy
walking distance of shop and
cafe, ground rent paid till
Nov 2013, 1 double room,
1 twin bedded room and
shower, newly built
verandah, close to the river
Wye, views of Elan valley, many
extras including TV and
fridge. £6,950 ono.
01902 850608.

equestrian corner

WELSH SECTION A GREY PONY
11.HH, 13 years old, ideal first
pony, good all rounder.
£1,000 with all tack and
accessories.
07830 358826.

12HH GREY geld 5yrs, lovely pony to handle, good to hack/load, loves SJ/K mounted games. £1,000 inc tack. 07944 528423.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER, choco-
late puppies, KC reg, three
males, ready end of March. For
viewing and details.
01902 569139, 07757 510415.

LURCHER PUPS working parents,
Dame Border Collie, Sire VJ
Bedlington, VJ, greyhound and
whippet. £125, 07690 86924.

MINIATURE Yorkshire Terriers,
black/tan, 2 boys, ready March 25,
pedigree, £500, 07910 416734.

PERSIAN PEDIGREE Kittens,
cameo, 8 month, vac and
neutered, £125, 07771 705625.

WHIPPET PUPS KC Reg, ready to
go at Easter, 2 brindle bitches, 1
brindle dog, 1 fawn and white
brindle bitch. Contact Andrew
07790 004459, Worcestershire.

SHIH TZU male puppy, KC reg.
ready now, £450.
01902 485735 or 07712 723379.

WHIPPET PUPS KC Reg, ready to
go at Easter, 2 brindle bitches, 1
brindle dog, 1 fawn and white
brindle bitch. Contact Andrew
07790 004459, Worcestershire.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

guns & dogs

Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Card
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

self catering holidays

GREAT YARMOUTH CHALET
sleeps 6, nr Sea & amusements.
Easter offer £125, 0121 3584515

NEW QUAY WALKS, Pet friendly
chalets from £225pw. Also dog
friendly. Call 01545 580 239
woodlandsnewquay.co.uk

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when pur-
chasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you
can follow to ensure that you
are not purchasing from a
Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with its
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given
any KC documentation, if
pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers pur-
chase from this
kind of establishment.

BABY MINI top eared rabbits for
sale, very nice colour, per-
fectly £20 each, 07918 185941.

BORDER COLLIES Lovely, gentle,
from 20 months.
Ideal pets. 01588 676106
www.dogssamaritans.org.uk

CAVIER KING Charles puppies,
black and tan bitches, 1st in-
jection given, KC reg. 01865 620038.

DOG KENNEL, as new, 4ft long x
2ft 10ins wide x 3ft high, cost £80,
sell for £40. 01902 834764.

FOREST DOG RESCUE

Rehoming - Patches - Springer,
3yrs, male. Harley - GSD X,
3yrs, male. Ella - Boxer X,
8mths, female. Poppy - X,
Breed, 8mths, female. Hattie -
X, 12mths, female. Freddie -
Staffie X, 2yrs, male. Romeo -
Springer, 3yrs, male. Charlie -
Young Lab X, male. Zippy -
Lurcher, 3yrs, male. Percy -
Mastiff X, 2yrs, male. Biscuit -
Staffie, 3yrs, male. Kipper -
young Mastiff X, male. Bart &
Marge - young Huskies.
01299 269181 or 07564 262371
www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

FREE TO GOOD HOME, 11 pond
goldfish Buyer to collect.
01902 741189

KIND HOMES WANTED

HARLEY - 8 month German
Shepherd / Husky, brown /
white, well behaved,
handsome, friendly.

JENNY - black/tan Terrier
Cross, friendly/affectionate
bit plain Jane but lovely.

RILEY - 2 year Lab / Collie,
lovely temperament, children
friendly.

MILO - 2 years brown shaggy
Patterdale cross, lovely boy.

SALLY - 7 year black, shaggy
Patterdale X Jack Russell,
loving and affectionate.
01588 676106.
www.dogssamaritans.org.uk

KITTENS for sale, beautiful
calico, 8 week old, 27,000
weeks old, to good homes only,
£25 each. 01902 338998.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER, choco-
late puppies, KC reg, three
males, ready end of March. For
viewing and details.
01902 569139, 07757 510415.

LURCHER PUPS working parents,
Dame Border Collie, Sire VJ
Bedlington, VJ, greyhound and
whippet. £125, 07690 86924.

MINIATURE Yorkshire Terriers,
black/tan, 2 boys, ready March 25,
pedigree, £500, 07910 416734.

PERSIAN PEDIGREE Kittens,
cameo, 8 month, vac and
neutered, £125, 07771 705625.

WHIPPET PUPS KC Reg, ready to
go at Easter, 2 brindle bitches, 1
brindle dog, 1 fawn and white
brindle bitch. Contact Andrew
07790 004459, Worcestershire.

SHIH TZU male puppy, KC reg.
ready now, £450.
01902 485735 or 07712 723379.

WHIPPET PUPS KC Reg, ready to
go at Easter, 2 brindle bitches, 1
brindle dog, 1 fawn and white
brindle bitch. Contact Andrew
07790 004459, Worcestershire.

SHIH TZU male puppy, KC reg.
ready now, £450.
01902 485735 or 07712 723379.

WHIPPET PUPS KC Reg, ready to
go at Easter, 2 brindle bitches, 1
brindle dog, 1 fawn and white
brindle bitch. Contact Andrew
07790 004459, Worcestershire.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

Top Soil, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Card
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

self catering holidays

GREAT YARMOUTH CHALET
sleeps 6, nr Sea & amusements.
Easter offer £125, 0121 3584515

NEW QUAY WALKS, Pet friendly
chalets from £225pw. Also dog
friendly. Call 01545 580 239
woodlandsnewquay.co.uk

motoring

RENAULT MEGANE
DYNAMIC 1.9 DCI 120,
DIESEL
5dr hatchback, 53 reg, blue,
69,000 miles, full service
history, MoT Jan 2014, June
2013, keyless entry and igni-
tion, panoramic sunroof, air
con, alloy wheels, multi
change CD
£1,795.
(Hagley) 01562 883891.

RENAULT SCENIC MEGANE
1.9DCI
One owner from new, 05
reg, tax and MoT July, fish,
excellent condition
£1,799 ono.
07802 275347 (Kingswinford).

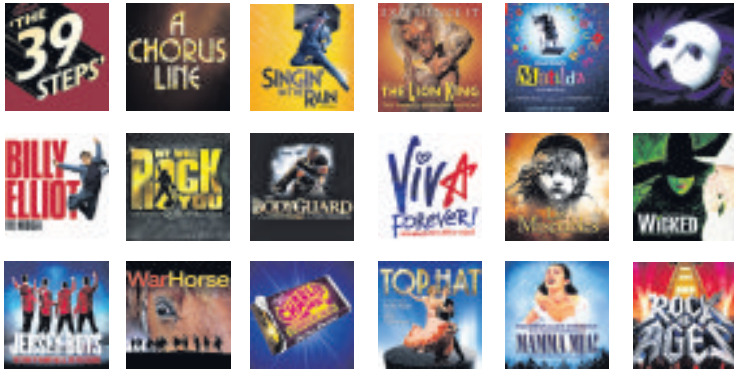
RENAULT MODUS 55 plate, 12
months MoT (nice car), 28,000
miles, lady owner, £2,495 ono.
07133 3041 or 01384 242172.

SMART CAR PASSION, 09 reg,
red, CDI, auto, free tax, 12 months
MoT, 42,000 miles, all alloys,
£5,500 ono. 01384 212269.

CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.6 Est.
Petrol, light blue, 57 plate, 8 mths
MoT, 2 months tax, 56k, 2 new
front tyres, £2,500, 07572 633335.

FIAT DOBLO Dynamic 1.3
Multijet, diesel, 58 plate,
21,500 miles, excellent
condition, metallic green,
fish, MoT, tax, alloys,
towbar, £5,250 ono.
07866

star★extraTRAVEL



LONDON THEATRE BREAKS

Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call
(01902) 319999
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),
or go to
expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information
plus terms and conditions

There's nothing like it for buying and selling
01902 317878 www.expressandstar.com/my-classified

**CHRIS
PAYS CASH
TODAY**
for all scrap cars & vans
Scrap it legally Avoid fines
We supply a certificate
of destruction.
Licence no: EAWML40301
No Worries Call Chris:
01902 493110 / Daytime
0121 525 5813
01902 659775 - evenings

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS,
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: **01902 408176**
1000's of parts
available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 741083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best
cash price for your unwanted car
/ van 01902 597035 / 07903 549849

property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the
Accommodation Agencies Act
1953, for an Agency to charge a
fee simply for the registration of
your requirements and/or sup-
plying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial com-
mitments.

A PRIVATE idyllic 1 bedroom
country Cottage Shifnal/Tong.
01932 850272 07549 917180.

BEDSIT Suitable for working,
mature person, well maintained
and secure, close to amenities
(Penn). 07768 687831.

COSELEY Unfurnished spacious,
self contained Flat, 1 bedroom,
garden. £370pcm. 01902 758934.

DARLASTON 3 Bed house, fully
modernised, DG, CH. Deposit.
DSS ok £140pw 07971 120296

FLAT TO LET

WEDNESFIELD
Fully furnished and
refurbished to a high
standard, with off road
parking, would suit working
Gent, aged 45 plus. £75pw.
Telephone **01902 304258**.

HALESOWEN Self contained
single studio. Car park. C/H.
£295pcm. Bowns 0121 708 0113.
No DSS or Pets

ONE BED flat just off Bantock
Park, partly furnished. £35 pw.
07966 899554.

ONE BEDROOM FLAT. £60pw,
close to Wolverhampton town.
Telephone 07863 290115.

ONE BEDROOM FLAT. £85pw,
Wolverhampton, close to town.
Telephone 07863 299115.

TWO BED HOUSE Tipton, fully
refurbished, dg, ch, no DSS £495pcm
01527 465553 07863 467001.

UNDERHILL 2 bed end terrace,
modern part furnished space,
drive, £525pcm. 07825 215925.

WOLVERHAMPTON Parkfields,
studio apartment. £120pw incl all
bills. No DHSS. 07877 673330.

coast & country

THIS COULD BE YOURS

FLAT FOR SALE

COSELEY

Reasonable size.

Two bedrooms.

£69,000.

07831

277790.

THIS COULD BE YOURS

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial com-
mitments.

properties wanted

Get 95-100% For Your House - FAST!

✓ Free valuation. Free consultation
✓ Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
✓ 100% Confidential. No obligation
✓ Repossession stopped

0800 092 5743
01902 489 500
YellowSpringbok.co.uk

**I WILL BUY
YOUR HOUSE**
*ANY AREA *ANY PRICE *ANY CONDITION
CALL PAULA ON **01384 467643**
*INDEPENDENT *LOCAL *CONFIDENTIAL

Need To Sell Your House Fast?
Guaranteed Quick Offer. Up to
100% of market value! Call Sue
on 0121 526 0317.

PROPERTY WANTED any condi-
tion. Long term let. Guaranteed
above market rent paid for right
property. Call Sarah on
0121 526 6410

flats for sale

FOR SALE. Two bed flat, Brierley
Hill, modern decor. £65,000.
Telephone 01384 827600 or
07945 904308.

houses for sale



PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON
3 bed detached bungalow,
lovely family home, lounge,
kitchen with granite worktops,
dining area, refitted bathroom,
close to St Bart's
School.

For more info see www.
mypropertyforsale.co.uk
(search code 102951)
£249,950 ono.
07929 191237.

jobs

BILLY THOMAS
HGV DRIVER TRAINING
Inc B+E (CAR & TRAILER),
THEORY, CPC TRAINING,
1-2-1 TUITION
CALL **01902 744726**
OR **07831 646601**

**CENTRAL
TRANSPORT
TRAINING**
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.
CPC AND ADP COURSES
CALL FOR FREE BROCHURES
0800 975 7121
www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk
SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE "QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"

TOP GEAR DRIVER TRAINING

DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
LGV/PCV, MINIBUS, B+E
TRAINING
INTENSIVE CAR TRAINING
INTENSIVE COURSES,
1-1 TUITION
FREE ASSESSMENTS,
DRIVER CPC TRAINING
FREE MEDICAL WHEN BOOKING
A RIGID AND ARTIC COURSE
AT THE SAME TIME.
0121 585 0834
Topgear-hgv@btconnect.com

employment wanted

ACTIVE PENSIONER seeks
employment. Part time van
driving, clean license. 01902
332968. 07842 431058.

ACTIVE PENSIONER seeks part
time employment. Welding, press
work, labouring, DIY skilled and
driving license.
07985 510967.

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER
Requires extensions, garden
walling and repointing work.
07932 844295.

OFFICE WORKER Requires job
part or full time. Book Keeping,
Administration.
07895 765095.

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY

Every Thursday our special jobs
section is packed with the week's
latest vacancies.



jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Champion Nancy gets European double win

DUDLEY runner Nancy Hitchmough is the queen of Europe.

The veteran Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers AC member had already won at the British Masters Indoor Championships but followed up with a double triumph in Europe.

She won the W60 age group 800m in two minutes 41.3 seconds in San Sebastian, Spain and added the 1,500m crown in 5min 38.85sec – both championship-best performances.

Not to be outdone, the club's oldest athlete Eric Horwill – recently turned 80 – took the age group gold medal in the 5km walk at the European Road Championships in Spain.

In the Midland Open at Birmingham, under-17 athlete Kyle De Escofet continued fine indoor form with times of 7.07sec for 60m and 11.05sec for the 100m, ranking him ninth and first respectively in the UK for his age.

Another under-17, Emily Horne, also set a best time for the 60m with 8.09sec.

Dudley and Stourbridge AC members took part in the Bath Half Marathon, which attracted more than 11,000 runners. Paul Waby came 72nd – fourth over-45 runner – in 1hr 14min 59sec and Paul Mountford chased him home in 79th with 1hr 15min 27sec.

Pool league

Black Country Pool League	
...P W L D F A Pt	
B Hill Snooker	9. 8. 0. 1. 42 12 68
The Crown B	9. 8. 0. 1. 43 11 66
The Crown A	9. 7. 1. 1. 39 15 60
Wheatheaf B	9. 6. 2. 1. 31 23 50
Cosley Tavern	9. 5. 1. 3. 21 29 49
Dudley Snooker	9. 5. 3. 1. 31 23 46
Club Dudley	9. 4. 3. 2. 31 23 45
Ellas Bar	9. 3. 4. 2. 30 25 43
Rookery Tavern	9. 3. 2. 4. 29 25 42
White Swan	9. 3. 4. 2. 26 28 36
Bluebells	9. 2. 3. 4. 22 32 33
Britannia	9. 3. 6. 0. 21 33 32
The Grange B	9. 2. 6. 1. 21 33 31
Wheatheaf A	9. 0. 5. 4. 21 33 29
The Brades A	9. 1. 6. 2. 19 36 23
The Brades B	9. 0. 7. 2. 13 41 17
The 3 Crowns	9. 0. 8. 1. 11 43 13
Match 9: Wheatheaf A 1: The Crown B 5; Brierley Hill Snooker 5	
Dudley Snooker 1; White Swan 2	
Cosley Tavern 4; The 3 Crowns 1	
The Grange A 5; The Crown A 5	
The Brades A 1; The Brades B 2	
Ellas Bar 4; The Grange B 1	
Britannia 5; Club Dudley 3	
Bunch of Bluebells 3; Rookery Tavern 3	
Wheatheaf B 3.	

Football fixtures

Dudley & Cradley Heath	
Sunday, March 31	
Premier Division: Pensnett Utd v Willenhall Three Crowns	
Division 1: Barley Mow Wdrvs v Dudley Olympic; Hadcroft Rovers v Tenth Lock; Halesowen Members v Forest Falcons; Ocker Hill Waggon v Malt Shovel Ath; Rutton Harriers v Dudley Utd; Seelby White Lion v Britannia Conyngre.	

Familiar face comes back to bolster batting

Cricket

batman and Harshad certainly fits the bill," said Cox.

"He has bags of experience playing in the Birmingham League and at Minor Counties level.

"He will hopefully have a big influence on some of the younger players.

"Having played here before, he also knows what the club is all about."

Patel will join a squad further bolstered by the arrival of two seamers as Cox plans to

avoid a repeat of last season's relegation scare. Aatif Ali has moved from Premier Division outfit West Bromwich Dartmouth, while 19-year-old left-arm Toby Lester has arrived via Loughborough MCCU and Lancashire's academy.

Brothers Jimmy and Nathan Howell have also been added to the first-team squad after signing from Staffs Clubs outfit Beacon.

The only senior departure has seen wicketkeeper Ian Walker move to Fordhouses. His place behind the stumps will be filled by Warwickshire under-17 keeper Dan Brosnan.

"We have kept all the players from last year with the exception of Ian and I am pleased with the signings we have made," added Cox.

"Last year was very difficult and a real eye-opener.

"We can't afford to find ourselves in that position again.

"Had we gone down, it would have really set the club back.

"But we have managed to recruit earlier and things are looking a lot more positive."

Meanwhile, Dan Such has been appointed head of the club's junior development.

Male back as derby duel is lined up

CRADLEY boxer Chris Male is making a swift return from retirement, writes **Craig Birch**.

The featherweight hung up his gloves last month but is back in training.

Male will fight at Dudley's The Venue on Friday, May 3. He lost an English title shot on points at the same location in November.

Male will appear on the card headlined by a Midlands welterweight title battle involving Stourbridge pair Steven Pearce and Sam Eggington.

"Fierce Pearce" had been due to defend his crown against Joel Ryan. But the Walsall man has now withdrawn, clearing the way for a real local derby bout.

Ryan has twice pulled out from an area title fight, but his actions have opened the door for both fighters – most profitably for Pearce earlier this month.

Stopped

He stepped in to challenge Derby's Luke Gallcar for the vacant crown at four days' notice and stopped him in five rounds at the Town Hall, Burton.

Eggington boxed his last bout at the Institute in Birmingham five days earlier, the 19-year-old scoring his first knockout when he put Vaclav Skromach over in round two.

Pearce and Eggington were involved as Prizefighter returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall in January but went out at the first hurdle.

Pearce alleged an illegal punch in a second-round loss to eventual winner Glenn Foot, as Eggington went the distance with finalist Dale Evans. Now they face each other in a home show.

Promoter Errol Johnson says: "Pearce versus Eggington has all the ingredients of a Fight of the Year contender. They are both come-forward-fighters who enjoy a tear-up. They are both from Stourbridge, so there's local pride at stake, too."

"The fact that there's a title up for grabs, too, means it's going to be a great night of boxing."

Among the undercard fighters are West Bromwich's Adam Corbett, a light-heavyweight, and unbeaten super-middleweight Andrew Robinson.

Tickets are £30 for unserved seating and £60 for ringside, which includes a three-course meal. Call 01384 453 101.

Team in total control with strongest line-up

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing are to field their strongest-ever driver line-up in the Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup this year.

Reigning champion Carl Breeze will return to defend his title – joining G50 Cup class title winner Mark Davies and rapid front-runner Jamie Orton.

Just days away from the opening three rounds of the 2013 season at Brands Hatch Indy Circuit in Kent, the Wednesbury team is delighted to confirm a three-car assault on the British Touring Car Championship support category as it aims to retain the title won by Breeze last year.

With Breeze, Davies and Orton all capable of battling for the overall crown in their respective Ginetta G55s, TCR team principal Lee Brookes is relishing the new season and a potential challenge for both driver and team silverware.

"Hopefully we've got the strongest team, we'll have to wait and see," he said.

Meetings

"We've got the G55 Champion from last year, the G50 Champion from last year and Jamie's back as well – it really is a great team. We won it having missed the first three race meetings last year, so this year could be even better."

"I've worked with Carl for a few years now, he's always up for the fight but he won't have it easy as everyone will be out to beat him."

"Working with Mark, I could tell straight away he's up for it as well and so is Jamie. It is definitely the best team we've had in GT Supercup for sure."

Breeze proved a popular champion last year, having been tantalisingly close to securing the Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup crown during the previous two

Motor racing

seasons. His title triumph was all the more noteworthy having had to overturn an early season deficit, of well over 100 points – his first title success since winning the 2001 Formula Renault UK Championship.

Davies made an outstanding debut in the premier G55 Class during the season finale last year by winning two of the three races. His march to the G50 title was unstoppable with 14 victories and 21 podiums, from 23 races contested in the class.

Orton, who originally intended to compete with a rival team this year, has already taken the decision to return to TCR. Last season was his first full campaign in the Ginetta GT Supercup.

Rounds one, two and three of the 2013 Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup take place on Saturday and Sunday at Brands Hatch Indy Circuit.

TCR will also have their Renault UK Clio Cup squad in action for the opening two races of the campaign, running Rob Smith who was sixth fastest overall during official pre-season testing.



Jamie Orton has the speed to challenge



Carl Breeze celebrates his Ginetta championship success last season

Tipton go Continental for away win

A PERFORMANCE built on commitment and desire carried Tipton Town through a testing Midland Alliance encounter.

In the 17th minute a clever ball by Nathan Waite to free Matt Martin deserved better reward, Rhys Hoyle winning his spurs with a great interception.

But Tipton were not to be denied for much longer, Richard Huckfield's flicked pass finding the head of Danny Dubidat in the 19th minute, resulting in a goal for the striker.

Tipton kept up the pressure with Huckfield narrowly firing a shot over the top quickly afterwards.

In the 37th minute last Wednesday, a counter-attack by Star had Tipton strug-

Continental Star 0 Tipton Town 2

gling, Tony Green sending Dan Holgate down the left flank, the latter's shot troubling keeper Jamie Horton but passing narrowly over the top.

Kicking uphill after the break Tipton were soon into their stride, Waite cleverly releasing Tom Tonks, who forced Ryan Gough to concede an early corner which was bundled over the bar.

Good probing balls by both Martin and Huckfield pegged the home side back but Tipton almost paid the penalty for slipshod play in the 53rd minute when, attempting to fly-kick clear, Tipton keeper Horton completely missed his kick, the alert Adam Wattley

straining every tissue to turn the ball away for a corner as Ibrahim Benjamin closed in on the unprotected goal.

Jamie Parker next came to Tipton's aid, calmly clearing from Green and Aaron Garvey before play was switched to the home goal, Tipton's Waite luckily driving over the top. With the visitors now dominating in the main some eye-catching skill by Dubidat opened up a channel for Tonks but Star keeper Gavin Ellis made a tremendous stop.

Waite went near for the visitors on the hour, but Ellis saved Star again before the same striker's volley was diverted for a corner. Karl Edwards kept Tipton in charge and forced the ball home again in a crowded goalmouth.

NEW STOCK ARRIVING EVERYDAY

The Midland's largest shop window.

650,000 potential buyers every week.

Thousands of new items for sale every week.

In your local Express & Star 6 days a week.

In your local Chronicle every week.

Online 24/7 at www.expressandstar.com/my-classified

classified

There's nothing like it for buying and selling.



01902 317878

Express & Star | The Chronicle | www.expressandstar.com

SPORT

Dream team

Race stars want
Total Control

Page 35



Welcome back

Familiar face bolsters
the Old Hill batting

Page 35

Sports Desk 01902 319461

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

What the Dicken as darter in upset

WEDNESBURY darter Matthew Dicken caused a shock by beating reigning PDC world youth champion James Hubbard in the first round of this year's tournament, *writes Craig Birch*.

Dicken ensured that the title holder would not retain his crown in the last 64 at the Barnsley Metrodome, taking a 6-4 victory.

It was the second year in a row that the Black Country darter had eliminated the world champion in the first round, after defeating Arron Monk in 2012.

The 20-year-old reached the final 16 last year and repeated the feat this time after a second 6-4 win, defeating Dutchman Wouter Vaes to progress to a meeting with Adam Hunt.

This time it was Dicken on the end of a 6-4 reverse to bow out of the tournament on Friday, picking up £725 for his efforts.

Michael Smith, who hit a nine-darter on the way, and Ricky Evans will contest the final at the O2 Arena in May, during the senior Premier League play-offs.

Dicken returned for the weekend's first Challenge Tour events of 2013 and reached the second round in both Saturday and Sunday's events at the same venue.

He took Lewis McGurn to the last leg on Saturday before losing 4-3, but on Sunday was whitewashed 4-0 by Martin Walker.

Hopes over big clash

MOSELEY Rugby Club are optimistic they can beat the weather and stage their crucial RFU Championship clash with London Scottish on Saturday (3pm).

The pitch at Billesley Common has been cleared of snow. With day time temperatures above freezing, the ground staff believe there is a good chance the game will be on.

Updates will be provided at www.moseleyrugby.co.uk

The match against London Scottish will be the third meeting between the two clubs this season with honours currently even.

Moseley will be seeking to extend a run of form that may even guarantee them survival this weekend if matches elsewhere go according to form. The South Birmingham club are 11 points clear of the relegation spot with four games remaining.

Move fast to keep McAuley, says captain

by Steve Madeley

CAPTAIN Chris Brunt has urged Albion to act fast to keep in-form defender Gareth McAuley at The Hawthorns.

The Baggies have opened contract talks with 33-year-old McAuley, whose current Hawthorns deal expires at the end of next season.

And Brunt is desperate for the club to reward his Northern Ireland international team-mate, whose displays in the heart of defence have made him a leading contender to be Albion's player of the season.

"I can't speak highly enough of him as a lad, or of his performances on the pitch," said Brunt. "He's a good friend of mine as well so I would love him to stay, and hope-

fully the club will sort it out. He's been massive for us. From day one, since he stepped into the team, he has been our most consistent player.

"And that's coming from someone who had never played in the Premier League until he was 31.

"I had known him for a long time and I knew he was a good defender.

"But when it came to the Premier League it was as unknown for me as it was for everybody else. But he has stepped up and been fantastic for us."

McAuley turns 34 in December, but Brunt does not believe the former Leicester and Ipswich man's age should matter.

"He's a fit lad," said Brunt. "He very rarely misses training."

Albion U21 0 Tottenham U21 4

Albion's young guns suffered a heavy defeat as Nabil Bentaleb bagged a brace for Tottenham in a behind-closed-doors clash at The Hawthorns.

Dean Parrett and Cristian Ceballos also scored as Spurs ran out comfortable winners in the Under-21 Premier League.

Teenage midfielder Isaiah Brown played for 81 minutes after missing England's European Under-17 Championship Elite

Round tournament with a calf problem. Bentaleb found the net from close range after Kenneth McEvoy's cross on 17 minutes.

And it was Tottenham who doubled their lead on 21 minutes as Parrett slotted home past Luke Daniels from Ceballos's through-ball.

Spurs won a penalty five minutes before half-time when Wes Atkinson felled Ceballos in the area.

The Spanish winger dusted himself down and found the back of the net from the spot.

Bentaleb grabbed his second and Spurs' fourth on the hour-mark after when he headed home a cross from Ceballos.

Big finish has Aces defeated

Birmingham 47 Belle Vue 43 BIRMINGHAM pulled out a big finish to take victory in their first speedway match of the season.

They trailed the Aces by four points with just three races remaining in this challenge match at Perry Barr.

But new-boys Chris Harris and Jason Doyle squared the match with a vital 5-1 in heat 13 on Wednesday last week.

Martin Smolinski then squeezed past Craig Cook in the penultimate race to take the flag, and Ben Barker's third place put the home team in front.

Harris raced to victory in the final heat to guarantee the win while third spot for Danny King made it a four-point margin for the Selco Brummies.

Smolinski thanked the Brummies fans for their backing.

"We really appreciate the noise," he said. "We couldn't have asked for a better start to the season."

The Brummies' home Elite League match against Midlands rivals Coventry on Wednesday was called off due to the weather and is set to be restaged on April 3.

But hopes were higher that tonight's challenge match at Sheffield could go ahead.

Track staff were removing snow from the Owlerton circuit and were optimistic.

Tigers co-promoter Neil Machin described the match as a "great way to start the season" and tipped the Brummies' Josh Auty as one to watch, saying: "He will always create some fireworks."

Birmingham: Chris Harris 12, Danny King 9, Martin Smolinski 8, Ben Barker 8, Jason Doyle 6, Nicolas Covatti 2, Josh Auty 2.

Belle Vue: Craig Cook 11, Magnus Zetterstrom 10, Alex Dryml 10, Kevin Wolbert 7, Kauko Nieminen 5, Artur Mroczka 0.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, March 28, 2013.

ALBION MAY DELAY EXPANSION PLANS

WEST BROMWICH ALBION are considering a delay to plans to expand The Hawthorns into a 30,000-seater stadium.

Chief executive Mark Jenkins told shareholders at the club's AGM the Baggies still plan to add extra seats.

But a large-scale expansion from the current 26,500 capacity will not happen until club officials are convinced demand for tickets has increased sufficiently. Shareholders approved the accounts for the year ending June 2012, which showed a profit of £1.5m on a turnover of £66.7m, and asked for an update on plans for the stadium.

Mr Jenkins said: "We are constantly reviewing various plans to redevelop and improve the stadium.

"However, at the same time we are very mindful of the current economic climate with the potential that we will suffer a double-dip recession while Europe is in financial crisis.

"Locally, unemployment continues to rise and, despite significant reductions in season ticket prices this season, attendances are only up by about 300 per game, with average attendances at just over 25,000 and only once exceeding 26,000.

Pushed

"Next season will see even more UK-screened TV games which will disrupt kick-off times further, while we still have excess capacity.

"Despite this, we are still exploring opportunities to improve the stadium when demand arises."

Chairman Jeremy Peace told fans in May 2011 the ground would be extended to accommodate at least 30,000 fans within three years - but those proposals could now be pushed back.

The club have drawn up plans to build an extra tier

by Steve Madeley

on the West Stand, formerly the Halfords Lane Stand, as well as alternative proposals for additional seats in the corners of the stadium.

But Baggies officials estimate any expansion would cost up to £15m and, despite several initiatives designed to boost attendances - including reductions in season ticket prices - the club are not yet convinced that demand justifies the cost of building work.

Mr Jenkins confirmed a planned tribute to Baggies legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown will happen irrespective of stadium expansion.

Shareholders approved the accounts for the year ending June 2012, which showed a profit of £1.5m on a turnover of £66.7m. The club made a £4.6m operating loss but it was turned into a profit by the sales of Marek Cech, Borja Valero, Ishmael Miller and Scott Carson.

Neil Reynolds, chairman of small shareholders group S4A, said: "It shows another year of outstanding performance on and off the field. To maintain exceptional financial performance while continuing to improve the playing staff and playing record and keep the club progressing reflects great credit on all concerned."

Table of triumph from Chloe's gala victories



It takes a sturdy table to support Chloe Finch's trophy and medal haul from the Worcester county championships

SWIMMER Chloe Finch went nap at the Worcester county championships.

The 14-year-old from Halesowen Swimming Club grabbed five senior titles at 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle and also won the 400m individual medley.

It was an exceptional performance

from Finch, a student at Leasowes High School, as there is no age limit on competitors.

Finch was also awarded the Brian Craddock trophy for breaking the county record in the 1,500m freestyle - a record which she had set herself last year.

This year she took an extraordinary 16 seconds off the time. Her total haul was 15 trophies, five senior gold medals, three senior silvers, a senior bronze, nine junior golds, 15 age group golds, a silver age group medal, a bronze age group medal and the medal for best overall performance.

Gastek
Solutions
Tel: 01384 560856
07737 261976

Boiler Service Just £35
March & April Only.
All areas covered
Please quote ref: GAS101

safe REGISTER
Worcester Bosch accredited installer
www.gasteksolutions.co.uk
info@gasteksolutions.co.uk
Halesowen,
West Midlands
All major credit cards accepted